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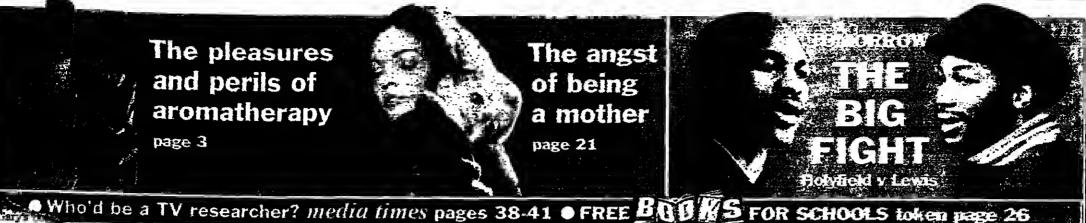
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The pleasures and perils of aromatherapy



The angst of being a mother

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FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN AND ALISDAIR MURRAY

EUROPE was plunged into confusion last night when Oskar Lafontaine resigned as German Finance Minister after a fierce cabinet row with the Chancellor, Gerhard

Herr Lafontaine, decried by The Sun as "the most dangerous man in Europe", had made himself into Britain's bugbear by pushing hard for tax harmonisation and much tighter European integration, and his departure was greeted with barely concealed glee in Downing Street and on the international markets.

Investors concluded that the resignation would put an end to the damaging feuding be-tween the German Government and the European Central Bank, and the euro which had been trading at fresh lows - staged a remarka-ble turnaround within minutes. European Government bonds also climbed in the postresignation euphoria and European stock markets, which were closed when the news broke, are expected to see

strong gains today. Herr Lafontaine, a champion of traditional tax-andspend socialist policies, has been at war with the ECB from the moment he took of-fice, with his demands for lower interest rates and a "Red euro" - a currency sensitive to centre-left pressure.

Analysts said that his departure not only restored confidence in the euro but, ironically, also made a European interest rate cut more likely be-cause the ECB would feel less under pressure to prove its independence.

Herr Schröder hurried last night to reassure Germany that his coalition Government was still on a stable footing. But the Social Democrats will hold a crisis meeting today to nominate a successor to Herr Lafontaine as party chairman

— with suggestions that Herr
Schröder may take on the role - while the inner government circle will also announce a new finance minister.

Hans Eichel, the former prime minister of Hesse, is the front-runner. Herr Eichel, like Herr Lafontaine, is a strong behever in tighter European integration, but he is regarded as more of a conciliator.

Despite the Chancellor's apparent confidence, there was no disguising the fact that Herr Lafonzaine's resignation was a crushing vote of no-confidence in the Government at a time when the country holds the EU presidency. Herr Lafontaine was central to the negotiations for an overhaul of European finances in preparation for the enlargement of the community and critical decisions are to be taken at a summit in Berlin in a fortnight.

Now Germany's ability to broker a satisfactory deal has been seriously weakened. Although the resignation removes a thorn from Chancellor Schröder's side, it cripples the government at a vital mo-

ment in European politics. The struggle between Herr Schröder and his finance minister has been at the heart of the Social Democratic-led government since it toppled Helmut Kohl last September. Herr Lafontaine has come under sharp criticism for a muddled tax reform, for sending the wrong signals to industry and for political flirtation with ex-communists. The Social Democratic party has split into two camps, with modern-isers loyal to the Chancellor having the slight advantage over more traditional socialists who looked to Herr

Lafontaine. The weakness of his position became clear earlier this week when he was again tipped to become the next president of the European Commission . an unrealistic but politically inspired leak intended to show that he was on the way out.

The showdown came at a cabinet meeting on Wednesday. The Chancellor complained about the sloppy work of some ministers and barked that he was fed up with backtracking after bungled and half-baked initiatives had



Oskar Lafontaine, whose resignation yesterday was greeted with glee across Europe

been launched on the public. He then hinted be might resign if his team did not perform more professionally. The comments were direct-

sial Green environment minister, Jürgen Trittin. But it was also a criticism of the finance minister. Herr Lafontaine gave his full support to the Chancellor at the cabinet ses-

sion. Later that evening, however, he decided to throw in

Bonn in chaos, page 15

Leading article, page 23

Al Fayed's brother wins battle for passport

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE brother of Mohamed Al Fayed yesterday won his sixyear battle to get a UK pass-port, opening the way for the Harrods chairman himself to get his British citizenship.

A final decision on Mr Al Fayed's request for a passport has not been reached but Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, has removed an obstacle block-ing a successful application.

The Home Office said it was seeking further information before making the decision on Mr Al Payed's five-year effort

to obtain citizenship. But in giving his brother, Ali Fayed, his passport. Mr Straw ruled that a government report branding the brothers as liars was no longer relevant to the applications.

A statement issued by the Home Office said Mr Straw had decided not to be influenced by the Department of Trade and Industry report into the takeover of Harrods by the three Fayed brothers. It jad ruled that their account of the takeover in 1985 was "unre-

liable" "untrue" and "bogus". Ali, Mohamed and Salah Fayed were said to have lied to the City, press, DTI and their advisers about their origins,

wealth and business interests. A Home Office statement said that Mr Straw had decided to discount the criticisms of Ali Fayed made in the DTI report because of the passage of time since it was published in

Home Office sources said that the criticisms would also be discounted when a decision is taken on Mr Al Payed's ap-

Laurence Harris, solicitor for the brothers, said they were delighted by the news and that Mr Al Fayed was confident that he will also now re-

ceive a British passport. Mr Harris, a partner in the London law firm of D.J. Freeman, said that Mr Straw's decision was a huge step forward. "Ali has been waiting six years for his application to be determined fairly and he

now has his passport."

Mr Harris refused to say what further information in relation to Mr Al Fayed's application was being sought by the Home Office and said he had no idea when the matter

would be resolved. Egyptian-born Ali Fayed, 55, who came to Britain in the late 1960s, originally applied for UK citizenship in 1993. His brother, Mohamed, 66, applied a year later. The third brother, Salah, has not applied for citizenship.

Lord Archer of Weston-Super-Mare, the former deputy chairman of the Conservative party, Sir Gordon Reece, Margaret Thatcher's image adviser, and Sir Peter Hordern, a former Tory MP, gave refer ences for both men. Field Marshal Lord Bramall, former Chief of the Defence Staff, also supported Mr Al Fayed's appli-

The applications were rejected in 1995 and the brothers then embarked on a legal battle to force a review. They won a Court of Appeal ruling in 1996 that the decision was unlawful.

Michael Gove, page 5

Clegg is cleared

Paratrooper Lee Clegg wept as he was acquitted of the 1990 murder of a teenage joyrider in Bel-fast, despite being branded a har by the judge. Clegg was found guilty of a second charge of attempting to wound the car's driver. Mr Justice Kerr said that much of the soldier's defence was untruthful and incapable

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Britain says EU farm deal is too costly

By CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS AND PHILIP WEBSTER

THE European Union settled the outline of a radical reform to its costly system of farm subsidies yesterday, but Britain and France immediately insisted that the deal cost too much and needed more work. Farm ministers claimed that

they had achieved a breakthrough after three weeks of protracted negotiations in Brussels by devising a price and subsidy shake-up to curb the excesses of the £30 billion annual cost of the common agriculture policy (CAP).
While farmers across the

Continent reacted with fury to planned cuts in their subsi-dised income, Franz Fischler, the EU Farm Commissioner said the spending overhaul, which trims guaranteed prices for beef, cereal and milk, was "the most far-reaching and comprehensive reform ever". Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, who helped to



Here an EU directive, there an EU directive, everywhere an EU directive. Old Macdonald had a farm, eieio...

tie up the deal at an all-night session, also called it "the most radical reform in the CAP since its inception". He said:

"When fully implemented it will cut food bills by £1 billion a year, equivalent to £70 a year for a family of four." Among other things, the re-form calls for the first cut in

subsidies to dairy farmers and a pledge to end the milk quota system, long opposed by Brit-ain, in 2006. Britain's annual quota is also set to rise a little. The benefit to consumers was challenged by the National Farmers Union, which gave a lukewarm welcome to the reform package. Ben Gill, the NFU leader, said: "I would like to think they would be

passed to the consumer but the reality is that the propor-tion of the final retail price that the farm gate price makes is very, very small these days." However, the package was Continued on page 2, col 6

Cash freeze hope, page 13 Leading article, page 23 deals. It is believed they were

Premier League crisis as two quit

BY ADRIAN LEE

FOOTBALL was thrown into crisis last night after the Premier League's two most power-ful officials were forced to resign over secret deals they al-legedly made without consult-

ing club chairmen. Sir John Quinton, the chair-man, and Peter Leaver, the chief executive, left after a stormy meeting at which they were told that England's lead-ing clubs had lost confidence in them. Despite insisting they had done nothing wrong, the pair accepted that their positions had become untenable.

Their departures throw the national sport into further turmoll after the sacking of Glenn Hoddle and the recent resignation of Graham Kelly. the Football Association's chief executive.

The latest row involved the appointment Chisholm and David Chance, two former BSkyB executives. as consultants on television

offered annual contracts of £600,000 each, plus bonuses. A Premier League source who attended yesterday afternoon's quarterly management meeting in London said: "This had been rumbling on for a

while and matters came to a

head. Feelings among the chairmen were strong."
It is likely that Sir John and Mr Leaver will receive sizea-ble pay-offs. The futures of Mr Chisholm and Mr Chance were also in doubt.

Dave Richards, the chairman of Sheffield Wednesday, was appointed acting chairman and Mike Foster, Premier League secretary, as tem-porary chief executive. A working party was set up to see if the contracts with BSkyB, an associate company of News International which owns The Times, and the BBC could be renegotiated.

Wembley sold, page 8 Matt Dickinson, page 52

A woman's jewellery wardrobe starts

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with the classics - timeless designs like Tiffany Signature earrings.

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Sheep grazed before the dinosaurs came

FROM SAM KILEY IN JOHANNESBURG

FOSSIL hunters yesterday re-vealed the skull of what they said could be mammals earliest ancestor: a creature which lived 250 million years ago be-side an inland sea in what is now South Africa.

Anomocephalus africanus was probably about the size of a sheep, although almost cer-tainly considerably less intelligent. It is believed to be the first of the Amonodonts. which predated the dinosaurs

by millions of years. So called because of their teeth, these were the most common of the mammal-like reptiles known as therapsids, which evolved during the Permian period and vanished in the Jurassic era 180 million years later.

director of the Bernard Price

Institute for Palaeontological

These were thought to have originated in Russia, but the discovery of Amonocephalus skull, and an artist's africanus means that scienimpression of the creature tists are having to rethink South Africa's role in evolu-Research at the University of tion. Professor Bruce Rubidge, the Witwatersrand, said: "Our



ships of the Anomodonts, and to show that the South African portion of what was the prehisnew find has allowed us to retoric super-continent of Gondevaluate the family relation-

hotspot 250 million years ago." The scientists have yet to determine whether Amonocephalus africanus had warm or cold blood, but Professor Rubidge said: "We have taken a

guess at what colour it was, and its skin texture. This is a very significant find because its shows that Africa could have been the home of the distant ancestors of mammals." Details of the discovery are available on the website http://www.wits.ac.za/media/ press releases/anom.html

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Monkeys are left bemused in the organ grinder's absence

pologies for absence can invite more quesdons than they answer. MPs who scampered into the Chamber after morning coffee for Questions to the Minister of Agriculture thought to find the main man. Nick Brown, waiting there for them, hot off the plane from Europe, where, until the small hours, he had been hammering out an EU agricultural settlement. The morning news was full of the deal.

So where was Mr Brown? The Front Bench was almost empty. Alone on a that they hoped their boss

waste of empty green leather were a small junior minister, Jeff Rooker, and his plumper junior ministerial pal, Elliot Morley. Big monkey, little monkey, no organ grioder. MPs were told Mr Brown

was oot yet back. Why? Talks on the common agricultural policy had been completed in the small hours, leaving plenty of time for a little zizz, then a plane back. Suspicions intensified when Brown's juniors declined opportunities during questions to discuss the deal, insisting would be in today with a Commons statement.

One or two Labour backbenchers Jumped the gun and praised Brown's magnificent achievement. Morley and Rooker did not seem too anxious to respond.

Maybe the Cabinet had not yet decided what line to take. Was this deal a revolution in agricultural policy, another remarkable triumph for Tony Blair's positive approach to Europe? Was it the best available in difficult circumstances, deserving measured, resigned approval? Or was it



a shabby compromise that Mr Blair will toss back as inadequate? "It does not much matter what we say," Lord Melbourne once shouted at the backs of his departing Cabinet. "But. mind, we must all say the same thing." The subject was the price of corn.

What was the message now? Labour backbenchers felt their pockets for that reas-

suring buzz, but their pagers lay inert. No message to be on, no message to be off.

So Denis MacShane (Lab. Rotherham) decided to discuss something he did know about. "When I put the bacon in my frying pan, Madam Speaker," he complained "a horrible white milky fluid appears, with bits of pink in it - just like the Tory benches

Morley) remarked, rather priggishly, that he was not responsible for what went on in his hon friend's frying pan. At least MacSbane called it

bacon. Ministers kept calling it pig meat. David Rendel (Lib Dem. Newbury) referred insistently to pork in his question about British pig farming but there's something refreshingly old-fashioned about Mr Rendel. "Watch out, Charlie!" shouted a Labour wag as Rendel rose; both Charles Kennedy and David Rendel are in the running for the lead-

opposite." The minister (Mr ership of their party. "No Morley) remarked, rather competition there, Charlie!" Labour shouted, as a low-key Rendel concluded a courteous and factual question.

Mr Kennedy smiled. Curiously, it seemed to be he who was acting as chief Liberai Democrat spokesman on agriculture, though that post is held by the notably expert Paul Tyler. Kennedy was making all the running. Tyler was

away.
Why? I made inquiries. The official line is that Mr Tyler is off discussing bananas. My guess is that, in a dark alley.

the small, wispy MP for North Cornwall has encountered two Kennedy benchmen

with a big sack. But it's not all sharp elbows and knives in backs at West minster. Slow to rise with his question, quiet-spoken David Chaytor (Lab. Bury N) stammered "Forgive Madam Speaker.

"Why?" shouted a Torv. "Cos he's a nice boy," came the returning cry from a Labour bench.

'And I'm a very forgiving Speaker." cooed Boothroyd.

Hackney council chief quits after schools clash

education authority moved a step closer yesterday with the resignation of the chief execu-tive of Hackney council, in East London, days before the publication of a highly criocal

inspection report. Tony Elliston announced his departure after four years in the £100,000-a-year post amid plaudits from local poliocians. But he is expected to be criticised for his relations with the borough's education de-partment when Ofsted reports on the authority.

David Blunkert, the Educa-

tion Secretary, sent a "hit squad into Hackney in September 1997 after a first Ofsted report found serious weaknesses in its school system. Richard Painter, the businessman appointed to bring about im-provenients, clashed with Mr Elliston over the restructuring of the authority, which had no chief education officer.

Liz Reid, an experienced official from Edinburgh was brought in 10 fill the post, but is said to have found her powers limited. The inspectors' report is expected to find that there has been little improve-ment since the authority's first

clash with the Government. Mr Blunkett announced in January that local authority services would be privadsed if they were deemed unsadsfactoEducation in the borough may be privatised, write

John O'Leary and Hannah **Betts**

ry. Scores of firms applied for inclusion on a list of approved contractors.

Mr Elliston's resignadon will be seen as part of a rearguard action to head off the possibility of privatisation. But ministers are understood to have already discussed a handover of key services. CfBT, a charitable trust which already acts as a consultant to a primary school in the borough which failed an Ofsted inspection, is the favourite to take them over.

Hackney councillors met with representatives of the Local Government Association on Wednesday evening to discuss strategies to keep control of the authority. One proposal involved the creation of an educadon acoon zone with the City of London Corporadon.

An alternative involved the establishment of a Hackney Board for Education Standcouncillors, representatives from neighbouring boroughs. members of the private sector and officials from the Department for Education and Em-ployment. The LGA is known to favour the second option.

The association has asked Mr Blunkett to meet them for talks before any decision is made regarding Hackney's future. But ministers are known to be anxious not to allow uncertainty over the authority's future to drag on.

Yesterday Estelle Morris. the School Standards Minister, promised "decisive action" to secure better services in areas where local education authorioes were failing, follow-ing an Audit Commission re-port on education services. Hackney was one of five authorities named by the Commission for their declining performance at GCSE at a time when most areas showed improved results.

Mr Elliston said he believed the foundations for continued improvements in Hackney's services were in place. "I have worked extremely hard over four years and there comes a time when you have to get a balance back into your life, especially when you have a wife and young family to consider."

Education, pages 42, 43



Mark Burnell, who impressed his publisher with his ability to write like a woman

A UNIVERSITY drop-out who spent seven years trying to find a publisher for his novels has finally won a £200,000 deal (Dalya Alberge writes).

Mark Burnell's third novel. The Rhythm Section, was snapped up just a week after he sent off the manuscript.

Susan Watt, publishing di-rector of HarperCollins, which is publishing the thrili-er in a two-book deal, spoke of his "original author's voice". She was struck by how he convinces the reader with his characterisation that "it is a woman talking".

Commenting on his resilience during those seven

Third time lucky for drop-out

years, Burnell, 34, said yester-day: "I took the view that the longer I spent at it, the harder it was to give up."

After dropping out of Dur-ham University just a year into his course, he took a se-ries of odd jobs including cleaning and barwork to support himself while be tried to write. Combining the two

Prescott

rules on

war of the

houses

BY TIM JONES

proved difficult and when he came into a little money from his family, he was able to de-vote himself to writing full-

"I moved out of London, back to Northumberland to make the money go further," he said. But though the money dried up last year, he re-

fused to give op.

The Rhythm Section is the story of a woman living several different lives at once, he said. "It is about the deliniation between those lives and the complications when one or other of the lives starts to infeet the other. It is about living under an alias."

EU subsidy

Continued from page 1 cast into doubt by France and

Britain because the six-year re-

form will cost over £3 billion more a year than the £30-bil-

lion ceiling set by EU leaders

"This does represent progress, but it is not satisfactory

as far as we are concerned," said Tony Blair's spokesman.

Jean Glavany, the French farm minister, said: "The work remains unfinished.

There is a risk that the accord

The French and British

doubts could cause the whole package to unravel when Euro-

pean leaders try to overhaul the EU budget at a summit in Berlin on March 24. Freezing farm spending at close to cur-

rent levels was a prime objec-

tive for London, Paris and

The Germans, who were de-

termined to broker a deal to

clear the ground for Berlin, said they had achieved the best possible compromise. The negodation was complicated

by a French refusal to have an-

ything to do with a German-

backed scheme which would

last month.

will founder."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Council tax in Sharket rises by up to require further reform Page 23

Council tax bills in the shires are set le Dripper
three times the rate of inflation this be visitors to the Jackson
Chartered Institute for Dublic States Chartered Institute for Public Financtrospective who see nothfound. It said that average increases will macaroni. Others will London, 5.2 per cent in metropolitan art the energy, confounded lish counties and 8.4 per cent in Wales ense of void..... Page 23 a survey by The Times last month, which mad areas would be the hardest hit.

rural areas would be the hardest hit.

The three highest known rises are:
shire, with Band D up 17.9 per cent to £703.
per cent to £751; and Wandsworth. South
per cent to £373.38. Ministers have said they at the meaning of per cent to £373.38. Munisters have said they with a meaning or excessive rises but Richard Ottaway. Shadow way has been Local Government, said the figures showed "steady". Budget He added: "Council taxes on ordinary families are lefinimore than £100 a week a year higher than when Labot in if came to power. Rural areas will be hardest hit. Labour took money from these areas and gave it to Labour heartlands."

Sarwar admits lie

Mohammed Sarwar, the Labour MP for Glasgow Govan, agreed at the High Court in Edinburgh that be had lied over a £5,000 cheque from his co-accused, Mumtaz Hussain, He originally told his lawyer he was given the cheque during a meeting at Glasgow Airport as a guarantee on a loan to an election rival, Badar Islam. Mr Sarwar said that was a lie to protect his hard-earned reputation - the cheque was handed over in a sweetshop. He denies giving Mr Islam £5.000 to make a false polling declaration. The case continues.

Computers for poor

Poor families will be given recycled computers for as little as £5 a month as part of the Government's drive to prepare the workforce for the computer revolution. David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, unveiled a £400 mil-lion information technology package detailing the Chancel-lor's Budget commitments. Teachers will be offered subsi-dised loans from a £20 million fund to buy laptops for use at home as well as at school, and employees will be given tax re-lief on computers borrowed from their firms.

Plan for exotic wildlife

A new deal for the giant carwig, blue faced booby and other exotic wildlife of Britain's dependent territories has been drawn up by the Government. Ministers have agreed that af-ter years of underfunding, the forests, mountains and wa-ters of territories from St Helena to Pitcairn Island deserve better protection and an Environment Charter, leading to tourism, pirate fishing and development, will be unveiled by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary.

Phone firms targeted

The Trade Secretary was urged yesterday to tackle extortionate rates charged by mobile phone companies as part of the Government's new campaign against "rip-off Britain". Consumer groups said that firms like Cellnet, Vodafone, Onc2 One and Orange should be among the first targets of oew powers to crack down on retailers who charge more than their counterparts overseas after it emerged that the largest networks had hiked some off-peak charges by as much as

Adopted girl can stay

A Jamaican girl adopted by her grandparents can remain in Britain, despite Home Office opposition. Five Law Lords unanimously ruled that the needs of the 17-year-old were more important than wider immigration policy considerations. Allowing the grandparents' challenge to a Court of Appeal ruling, Lord Hoffman said: 'In cases in which adoption would confer real benefits upon the child it is very unlikely that considerations of 'maintaining an effective and consistent immigration policy' could justify refusal of an order."

School drugs alert

A girl aged teo was semi-conscious in hospital last night and two of her classmates needed medical treatment after swallowing drugs that she had brought to school. The pills, thought to contain a sedative, were brought into the playground at Colliery Primary School, in Dipton, Co Durham, by the girl, who innocently handed out them out "like Smarties" to two nine-year-olds. Police said that they bad arrested a 19-year-old man. They are treating the girls as innocent

Dog's Commons motion

Lucy. David Blunkett's guide-dog, made parliamentary history yesterday when it was sick on the floor of the House. The rare example of canine indiscipline came shortly after the Education and Employment Secretary finished a speech on the education provisions in the Budget. His Tory counterpart. David Willetts, rose to reply when the six-year-old black labrador-retriever cross made its feelings known. The dog was taken outside for some water. Mr Blunkett said laler. "Lucy is fine now."

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MORE than 500 years after a crucial and bloody Wars of the Roses battle, John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, last night turned down permission for houses to be built on the ste. According to campaigners, including Robert Hardy, the actor, and Sir Jocelyn Stevens, chairman of English Heritage, the first battle of Tewkesbury, in 1471, was among the most Important in English history. But the local council had re-

But the local council had rejected their claims that the 10-acre field in Gloucestershire was steeped in history.

The second war to be waged on the site, against the propos-al by Bryant Homes Mercia to built 51 houses, began in May. 1997, when Tewkesbury councilions supported the developmeni plan.

The bitterly contested public inquiry ended when Mr Prescott agreed with the inspector that the proposed develop-ment would have an irreversi-

bly damaging impact. Kelvin van Hasselt, of the Battlefields Trust, said: This decision is a crucial planning precedent and indicates the importance the Government attached to the Battlefields Regis-ter." Chris Shaw, planning officer for the borough council said: "It is a shame that the democratic process has been overturned because of the pressure of an unelected body."

have required governments to shoulder part of the farm bill from their national budgets. While Mr Brown's negotiating skills were praised when the Cabinet discussed the deal yesterday morning, Mr Blair and Gordon Brown, the Chan-cellor, made plain that further reform would be needed. Britain believes that the EU's stated aim of stabilising its overall spending at today's real terms level in the year

British sources accept that the French stance probably makes such a goal unrealistic.

2006 is unattainable.

London may get electronic election

By JILL SHERMAN CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LONDON'S five million electors could be the first in the country to use an electronic voting system when they choose their Mayor and Assembly members on May 4

next year. Nick Raynsford, the junior Environ-ment Minister, said he would look at different methods of using electronic sys-tems to replace the traditional pencil-andballot-paper method of voting. One obvi-ous benefit would be much earlier declaradons of results.

The top option now being considered is

the use of an electronic machine installed in their constituency as well as casting a in a booth in a polling stadon. The voter would then merely touch a button to enter their choices. But the elections next May will be highly complex, involving four different votes, and the government is open

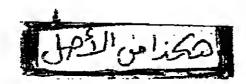
to other suggestions. There will be two votes for the London Mayor, a first and second preference. If no candidate gets more than 50 per cent all candidates except the top two are eliminated and second preferences re-distribut-

In addition, however, there will also be two votes for members of the new assem-

separate vote for the party of their choice. Mr Raynsford announced yesterday that he would now invite companies to send in their own ideas for providing electronic equipment.

Ken Livingstone, the MP for Brent who

has accused the Labour leadership of try ing to block his candidature, was delighted by the news. He said that under the old system it would have taken about two days to count the votes, but an electronic system could announce the result within an hour. "Instead of waiting until 4am for bly. Each elector can vote for a candidate ing at my victory party," he said. the results in Brent, I can be out celebrat-



Body exhumed in 29-year mystery of dead children

By Stewart Tendler CRIME CORRESPONDENT

DETECTIVES have reopened their inquiries into the deaths of two children after 29 years to see if they were the victims of paedophiles. Police have exhumed the body of an 11-year-old girl in the hope that scientific advances could provide new clues.

The body of Susan Blatchford was found with that of Gary Hanlon, 13, in a shallow grave in Epping Forest in June, 1970. The cause of their deaths, in what became known as the Babes in the Wood case, was never established.

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Gary's body was cremated, but police hope that Susan's body could corroborate information they have received about the cause of death. Scientific advances could show the possible use of drugs by an attacker, and evidence of an attack or an assault. Scotland Yard confirmed yesterday that Susan's body had been exhumed from a churchyard in Enfield, North London. Samples were taken by a pathologist and the body was reburied within 24 hours as forensic scientists began tests.



'Babes in wood' deaths remain a mystery



Susan Blatchford, left, and Gary Hanlon, and a headline from the inquest in 1970. Now police hope that scientific advances could help to solve the case

police under Detective Chief Inspector Robin Scott worked for months to substantiate the new information. Susan's family agreed to the exhumation, which was authorised by the Home Office. The children disappeared from their

homes at Enfield in March 1970. Susan The bodies had lain too long for scien-

had asked Gary if he wanted to go for a tists in the early 1970s to find very much. could not tell if death was from foul play At the inquest, the pathologist, James Cameron, said that Gary's clothes had not been disturbed, but that Susan's stock-ings, pants, bra and shoes had been removed. He said that the clothing could have been removed by animals and he

or exposure. The Coroner, Charles Clark,

recorded an open verdict.

Afterwards Muriel Blatchford, the girl's mother, said: "The only animal that could remove Susan's bra, pants and

Detective Chief Superintendant Leonard "Nipper" Read, who led the investigation. said he had always believed the deaths were murder. Mr Read, who also led investigations into the Kray twins, said: "I was always convinced, but there was so little to determine the cause of death."

The case was reopened briefly in 1984 and then a second time three years ago by officers from a murder squad in North London after they were given new information. The Yard has refused to discuss the source of the new inquiry in the hope that the informant could provide more

Scientific advances over the past decade include DNA techniques that can identify suspects from a particle of hair or a flake of skin, and toxicology tests that can identify a wide range of chemicals from minute samples. Traces of opiates and barbiturates can be identified in hair and nails. Teeth may also hold traces of a drug.

Fingerprint work means that more and more surfaces can now yield prints including plastic surfaces such as bags. Uncovering fibres and making matches has also

Kubrick film clip ruled too explicit

THE first scenes from Eyes Wide Shut, the final fibn made by Stanley Kubrick, were released yesterday and promptly judged too explicit to

be shown on television. Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman are seen naked and having sex in front of a large mirror in the 90-second trailer that the film director, who died on Sunday, made to show

cinema owners. The movie has been almost three years in the making

the ShoWest convention for Traumnovel the film industry in Las Vegas Schmitzler. on Wednesday, but the Ameri-

said: "Large portions of this shown until the British Board trailer are unsuitable for televi-

been rated because there are very explicit sex scenes between Kidman and Cruise."

In Australia, one television network placed a roll of negative film across the couple's naked bodies while others would show only shots of them

Cruise and Kidman, who are married in real life, play psychologists who are married but cheat on each other largely because of Kubrick's play by Frederic Raphael, exacting standards which explores sexual jealousy The trailer was released at and obsession, is based on Traumnovelle, by Arthur

The trailer, which was not can television networks consid- intended for a general audiered it too risque and cut it to ence, is not likely to be seen in its entirety in Britain for some One television announcer time. Trailers cannot be



walk one afternoon. There was specula-

tion that they had run away together. The

bodies were found by a man walking his

dog about 30 minutes walk from their

full. It features Nicole Kidman and her husband, Tom Cruise

en the film a certificate. That will not be for several months. since Eyes Wide Shut is not expected to be released here until the summer, several weeks after its release in the States.

Julian Senior, marketing vice-president for Warner Bros. said: "This is not intended as an all-audience trailer; it is an excerpt that was chosen

by Stanley Kubrick to give cinema owners a sense of the

The film was Kubrick's first since Full Metal Jacket in 1987. The director, who also made A Clockwork Orange and 2001: A Space Odyssey, had been adding the final touches when he died at his

Salvatore Yevragamo

Nurses warn of danger in using essential oils

ESSENTIAL oils can be dan-gerous, especially to children and pregnant women, nurses said yesterday. With aromatherapy now

one of the most fashionable of all complementary medicines, delegates attending the Royal College of Nursing's annual congress in Harrogate called for better labelling and more regulation of the use of oils to stop them becoming a health

Essential oils used in aromatherapy are distilled essences derived from plants. There are about 30 commonly used essences, ranging from basil and bergamot to lavender,

rose, sage and teatree. Retail sales of such oils increased by 70 per cent between 1992 and 1994, according to the latest available figures, but that rate is known to be accelerating. Sales now top £14 million a year and the number of practitioners registered with the Aromatherapy Organisations Council has soared from 2,500 to 6,000 in seven years.

The council has a code of conduct for members, but it represents only those therahists who are prepared to abide by its rules. At present, anybody can set up as an aroectronic elections matherapist and there is no control over or licensing of the products they use or sell.

Although reputable makers sell high-quality products, pric-es can be high. Because there

Ian Murray on aromatherapy risk to children and pregnant women

tial oils are increasingly availa-ble on market stalls, where they find buyers among fashion-conscious but poorer cus-

Kath Ryan, a nurse and trained aromatherapist from Birmingham, told the congress that even the best essen-

are no proper regulations, cut-price versions containing a very low proportion of essen-if too much was used, the oils could cause rashes, skin burning, nausea and vomiting. Pregnant women using them had miscarried and there was evidence that the oils could

cause liver disease. "The labelling of a lot of oils is insufficient and only tells you to put a few drops in a



Essential oils can harm children, nurses have warned

not to take it internally," she said. "The label usually does not tell you what oils are there and names are given in Latin, which doesn't mean anything to most people."

She said manufacturers of good-quality, pure oils were always willing to send information about their products, but users might still not understand how to use and dilute them to ensure that they

would not cause harm.
"People just don't realise how strong these oils can be." she said. "Just by smelling them you can lift molecules out which will start circulating in the bloodstream. These oils are natural products but they are potent."

Miss Ryan is conducting a three year research trial at Birmingham Women's Hospital using essential oils on patients to reduce high blood pressure before operations. She said that she has been able to give an aromatherapy massage and reduce the blood pressure of patients who were anxious before an operation.

Carole Cunningham, a nurse and aromatherapist from York, said: "We would also like to see the companies who sell these oils having specific knowledge about what they are selling, and there needs to be better regulation about the training and education of aromatherapists."

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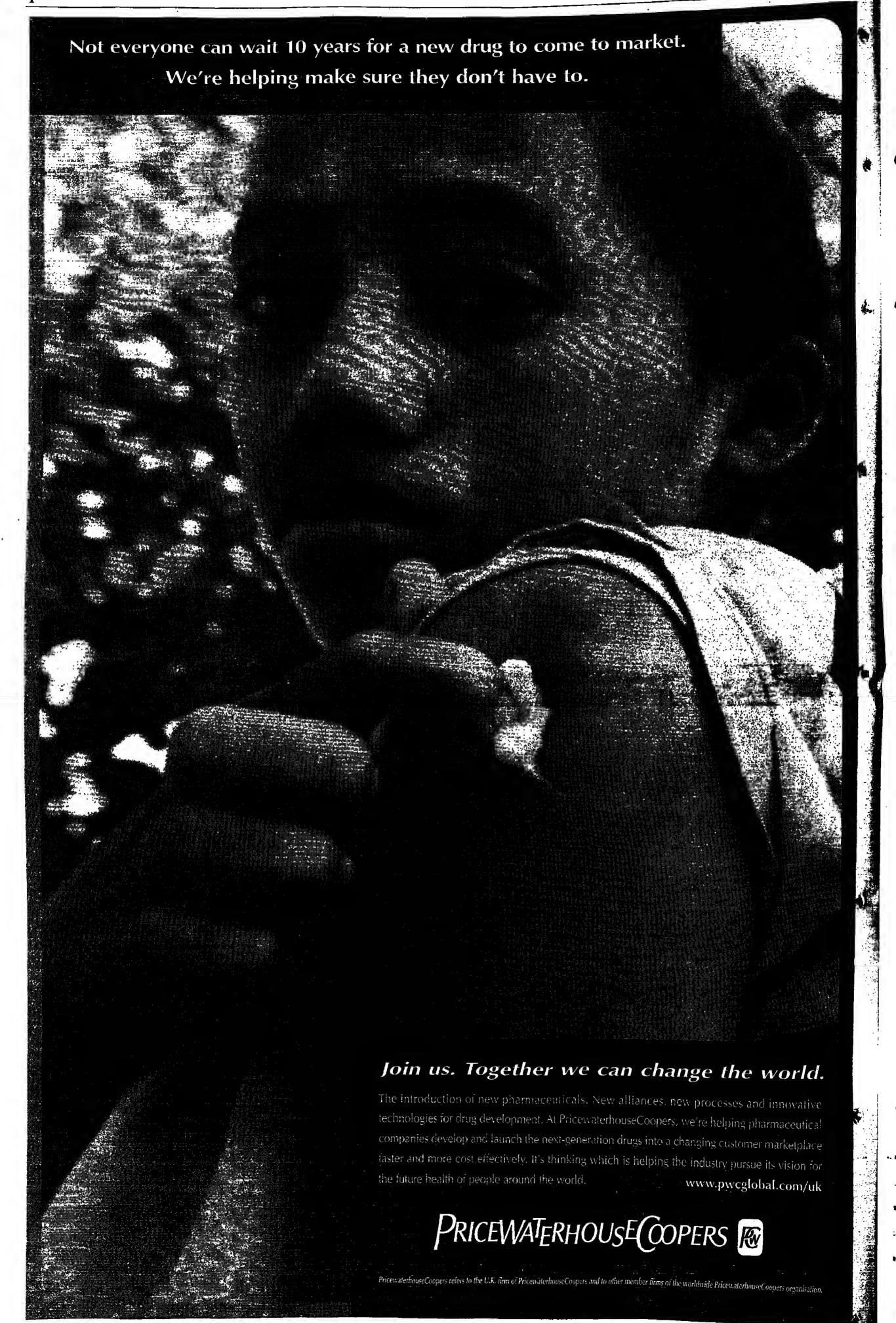
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Fans may not get into big fight

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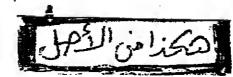
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Exile who may have found a home at last

HE HAS been the most controversial man to come out of Egypt since Moses. And like that Prince of the Nile, Moharned Al Fayed has been in exile for most of his life. It was Moses's brother, Aaron, who eventually made it to the Promised Land. And it has been Mohamed Al Fayed's brother, Ali, who has succeeded in the long quest for the promised pass-port. But this morning Mo-named has good reason to believe that he may go one better than his Pharaonic predecessor and live to secure his

Jack Straw's statement yesterday strongly suggests that Mr Al Fayed is on approval. The decision to grant his brother cinzenship, and the related announcement that passage of time has rendered otiose a critical Department of Trade and Industry report, implies that. if Mohamed can keep his nose clean, he can place his hands on that little maroon book. Mr Al Fayed's desire to ac-

quire a British passport is, like so much of his life, overlaid by myth and complicated by intrigue. He has spoken in the past of his romantic attachment to Britain, having been inspired by the sight of Her Majesty's sailors steaming through the Suez canal. His desire to join the British establishment led him to hope that his own son might walk down the aisle with Her Majesty's daughter-in-law in the pristine white of those sailors.

But that dream died, along with Diana and his beloved son Dodi in a Paris tunnel on that tragic night in August 1997. It was the most grievous of many reverses in a remarkable career. But it has been a career almost more notable for Mr Al Fayed's resilience and recoveries from his wounds, whether self-inflicted or perpetrated by enemies.

He was born into an obscure and genteel poverty he would rather forget, and great-ly resents others picking over. The son of an Alexandria

Michael Gove traces the Fayeds' quest for a passport and suggests Mohamed's wait will not be long

port unnecessary in assessing

the Fayeds' fitness for citizen-

ship. While the Fayeds may

also delivered during another

fight where sharp practice oc-

curred, a fight that saw Labour rather than House of Fraser

shareholders reap dividends.

As part of their long cam-

paign for citizenship, the

Payeds used their money to buy British MPs. One, Tim

Smith, resigned after his finan-

cial relationship was revealed.

His admission in the run-up to

the last general election made

the stain of sleaze on the Tories

schools inspector, he was ashamed of his father's mod-est background, remarking of him in later life, "He was useless." His past was certainly of no use to him and his brother when they launched their bid for Harrods. It was as princes of Egypt that they mounted their purchase. And it was for allegedly exaggerating their in-dependent wealth that they were subsequently criticised.

But the Home Secretary is clearly determined to allow the past that Mr Al Fayed has done so much to obscure to be forgotten. The DTI report into the brothers' takeover of the House of Fraser was critical of their attempt to exaggerate the grandeur of their status. The inspectors concluded that they had lived in an Alice in Wonderland world where "lies were the truth and the truth was a lie".

The brothers vigorously con-tested a conclusion that they believed was motivated by racism and malice. And if they were unlucky in the choice of inspectors, they were lucky in their main assailant. Their rival for House of Fraser had been the German-born tycoon Tiny Rowland, and it was his energetic opposition that had coloured the report.
But Mr Rowland, a former

member of the Hitler Youth, was hardly a sympathetic figure. Mr Al Fayed's biographer, Tom Bower, believes that it was distaste for Mr Rowland that helped the Fayeds to keep their prize. Sir Gordon Borrie, then the Director-General of the Office of Fair Trading, advised the DTI that "the Monopolies Commission does not exist to punish people for lying. The shareholders got the cash, Morality is irrelevant."

New Labour is the last or-



the Tories' fall, an act of revenge against an Establishment he felt had betrayed him. But his attitude towards the Eshave been guilty of sharp prac-tice during the Harrods fight, they still delivered by paying the agreed price. The Fayeds tablishment has always been ambivalent He sponsored the Royal

Windsor Horse Show to show his support for the monarchy. just one of a string of charitable endeavours that saw him walk with the well-connected. His most successful invasion of grand circles came with the romance between his son and Diana, Princess of Wales. Al-though Mr Al Fayed's claims that the couple were to become engaged can never be authenticated, it was, observers attest, a genuine romantic friendship. The confusion and bitter-



A Harrods shop window yesterday. Mohamed Al Fayed's long wait for British citizenship may soon be over

ness provoked by conflicting accounts of responsibility for their death have left a bitter aftertaste. But the loss of a beloved son and his lover inspired sympathy even from those not

enamoured of him.

Mr Al Fayed has not had to work hard to make enemies. He fell out with his first busi-

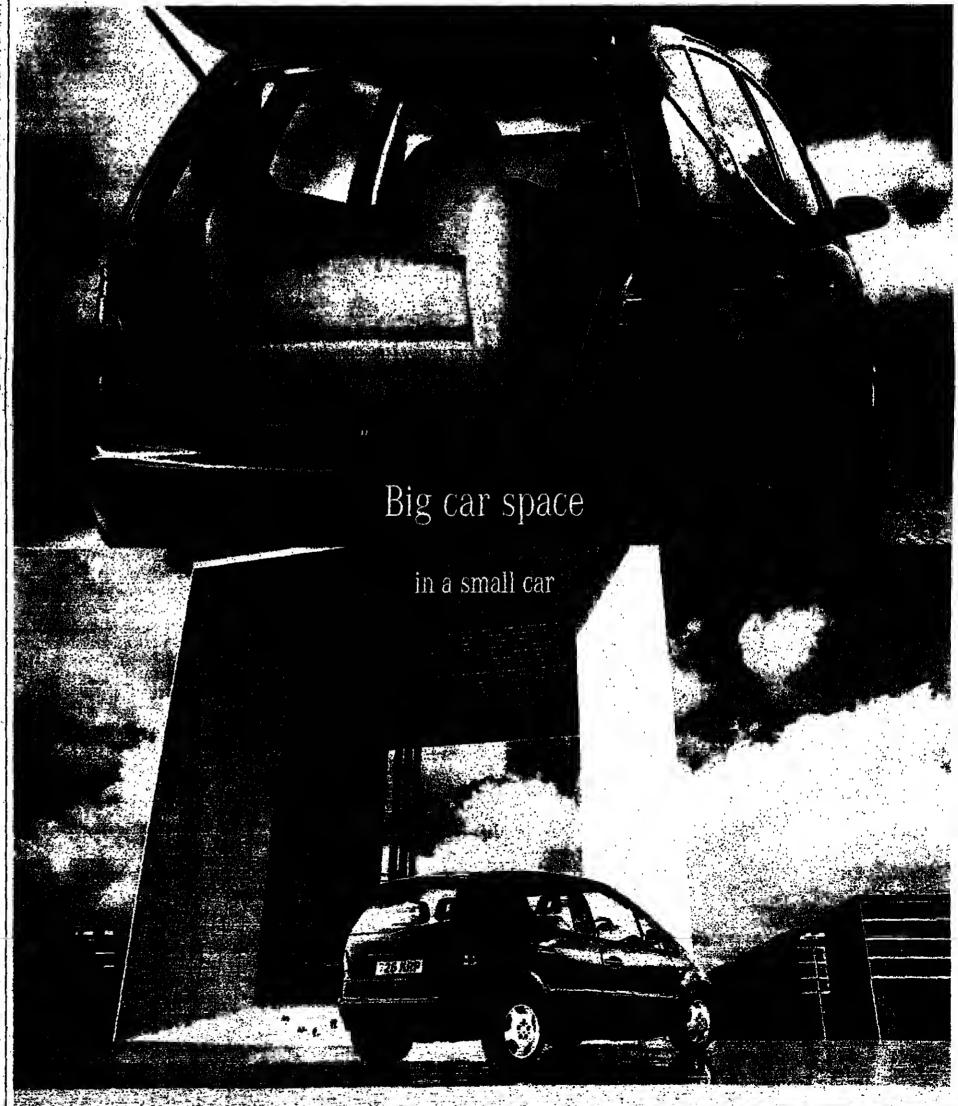
ness partner, the arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi, whose sister was Mohamed's first wife. An earlier search for a pass-port took him to Haiti, which he left after complications with a diplomatic document and the undying wrath of the country's ruler. Papa Doc Duvalier.

speak up for him. His role in supporting sterling during a past crisis is referred to favourably by some Tories, and he has recently found a persuasive evangelist in Keegan, manager of his Ful-Other business colleagues ham football team, whom he

blanch at the man's name, but

some unexpected figures

land. In having Keegan pay generous tribute to him, Mr Al Faved has reached parts of the country even Harrods hampers couldn't. If Keegan proves to be England's passport to football glory, then perhaps Mohamed might find his own passport in the post.



not get into big fight BY RICHARD DUCE.

AND JAMES BONE

THOUSANDS of British box-ing fans will arrive in New York this weekend to discover that tickets they bought for the most important heavyweight bout in decades do not exist.

Some 6,000 British fans are expected for Lennox Lewis's match with Evander Holyfield but there were fears last night that barely half that number would get in to see it. Some could even be without an hotel

morn for the night.

Many of the fans arriving for the fight at Madison Square Garden tomorrow with the fight and that the control of the fight that the control of the control of the fight that the control of the control of the fight that the con pledged by agencies in Britain either never existed or have been sold on by American bro-kers at a higher price. It raises the prospect of Lewis supportthe prospect of Lewis supporters having to watch the fight on television in New York holicits and bars. Black-market fickets are changing hands at more than six times face value.

Concern is such that Frank Maloney, the British promoter for the bout which will decide the undisputed world heavy-weight charming, vesterday weight champion, yesterday demanded an audience with

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would be hapy to meet him. Mr Maloney said: "I have met fans who have told me they have been promised tickets and they are not here. My advice to fans is that if they do not have a ticket, stay at home

the Mayor of New York, Ru-

dolph Giuliani, who said he

and watch it on television." After the disastrous alloca-tion of football World Cup tickets last year, it is expected that there will be renewed calls for a system under which a company that sells a ticket to a coorting event is liable to re-

Fans may | First-wave students of surf sought

Harrods victors: Mohamed Al Fayed and his brother Ali

By Hannah Betts

THE world's first university degree course in surfing was unveiled yesterday with an en-try requirement of two B gra-des at A level. Up to 25 students are being sought for the three-year BSc at Plymouth University in September.

The Surf Science and Technology programme will involve practical sessions as soon as conditions off the Devon coast allow, but the Beach Boys will be absent from the syllabus in favour of more academic pursuits Dr Malcolm Findlay of Ply-

mouth's Institute of Marine Studies, one of the course's cofourthers, is aware in a fit tony sound like a beach burns' charter, but he says there is a need for mortar boards in the multimillion-pound surf industry.

"It is novel and we do expect people's first reaction to be 'Hey, dude! Let's head to the beach and have a good time! But it simply won't be like that. Surfing is a recreational activity, but it's also a huge global industry that includes an awful lot of science.

This is the first academically rigorous surf science course in the world - we couldn't even find one in California." In their first year, under-

graduates will focus on oceanography, surfing materials and business studies. In the second year, the course will encompass human biology and hu-man performance. For their fi-nals, students will develop their own specialism within surfing science.

On the strength of current in-quiries, the surfing dons are expecting a tidal wave of applications. From these beginnings Plymouth hopes to become a centre of excellence for surling sciences and even offer surfing

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THE HARD PER

Clegg cleared of murder but branded liar by judge

Sinn Fein says verdict is an insult to family of dead Belfast

teenager, reports **Martin Fletcher**

PARATROOPER Lee Clegg was acquitted yesterday of the 1990 murder of a teenage joyrider in Belfast despite being branded a liar by the judge.

Clegg, 30. wept at a verdict that ended a long legal battle to clear his name, but Mr Justice Kerr did find him guilty on a second charge of attempting to wound the car's driver. Clegg was released on bail until sentenced but legal experts said that he was unlikely to be re-imprisoned as he had already spent four years in custody

Last night it emerged that Clegg's barrister had written to the judge and Northern Ireland Secretary during the retrial asking that he be released if convicted.

In yesterday's judgment Mr Justice Kerr called much of Clegg's defence "untruthful and incapable of belief" but said he could not be certain that Clegg had fired the fatal shot that killed 18-year-old Karen Reilly. "I think it very likely that he did but I cannot be sure of it," he said. Clegg's



Karen Reilly and the bullet-ridden stolen car in which she was a back-seat passenger

legal adviser said that neither the soldier nor his family immediately understood the verdict but when it was explained to them in a back room later they were "totally overwhelmed" and "broke down in tears". He will return to Eng-

Ms Reilly's father. Sean, left the court distressed but saying nothing. Sinn Fein called the verdict an insult to Ms Reilly's family and said that it "couldn't have come at a worse time when people are working very hard to build and consolidate the peace process".

When Lance Corporal Ctegg was released from prison in 1995 there were riots in republican areas but the RUC was not on heightened alert last night.

Clegg cleared his name at his fifth hearing in six years before 13 different judges. The

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extraordinary legal saga, that has aroused deep passions on both sides of the Irish Sea. began on the night of September 30, 1990, when his 17-man patrol was manning a check-point on the Glen Road in

republican West Belfast. At midnight a stolen Vauxhall Astra sped towards the checkpoint. Clegg, 21 at the time, opened fire. His colleagues followed suit. The driver, Martin Peake, t7, was killed. So was Ms Reilly, his backseat passenger. A post-mortem examination indicated that she had been killed by a bullet from Clegg's rifle,

In the paratroopers' mess a montage appeared showing the Astra with the caption Built by Robots. Driven by Joyriders. Stopped by Paras'. in 1991 Clegg was arrested and charged with murdering Ms Reilly and attempting to murder Peake. He was convicted in 1993 and sentenced to life imprisonment.

He appealed unsuccessfully in 1994 but in July 1995 Sir Patrick Mayhew, then North-ern Ireland Secretary, freed him on licence after a huge campaign on his behalf in England that collected a million signatures. Riots erupted in Belfast and Londonderry but Clegg returned to his regiment as a physical education instructor and was promoted to lance

He appealed unsuccessfully to the House of Lords but last year had his conviction quashed and won a retrial after his lawyers presented fresh ballistic evidence. Mr Justice Kerr based yesterday's judgment on 4,000 pages of detailed technical evidence of Clegg's defence was that he shot the fatal fourth bullet that killed Ms Reilly at the side of the speeding car to defend himself and his colleagues, not at the vehicle's rear in what the prosecution alleged was an unustified use of force.

In his 189-page judgment, which took five hours to read, Mr Justice Kerr dismissed as lies and fabrications many of the cornerstones of Clegg's

He said that Clegg had in-deed fired his last shot at the back of the car. Clegg had actually opened fire when the car was still some distance from any member of the patrol, and described evidence about where he was standing in relation to the other soldiers as "farrago of deceit and untruths".

He accused Clegg of lying when he claimed that the car had struck one of the soldiers, and said that the soldier had subsequently been struck with a rifle butt by his colleagues to make it look as if he had been hit by the vehicle.

The judge rejected Clegg's "concocted" story that the pa-trol had just received an intelligence warning of an imminent IRA attack in that area.

However, having given the court the impression that he was going to convict Clegg of murder, Mr Justice Kerr announced that he was not convinced that the paratrooper had fired the fatal shot through the back of the car.



Clegg, who wept when the verdict was explained to him, will return to England today

He said it was also possible that he and his colleagues genuinely believed that they were in imminent danger.

"I am not prepared to convict in relation to the discharge of that shot," Mr Justice Kerr said. "He must, therefore, be

acquitted of the offence." Joe Hendron, West Belfast's nationalist SDLP MP at the time of the murder, did not directly criticise the judge but said that the two joyriders had been "summarily executed by the elite of the British Army" and the ruling showed there was one set of rules for soldiers and another for civilians. No paramilitary had ever been found in a joyrider's car.

However, Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionist Party's security spokesman, expressed "relief that justice has been done". He said it was important to understand the intense pressure faced by young soldiers operating on the front line of a terrorist war and had to make split-second decisions.

Simon McKay, the para-trooper's legal adviser, said

that Ms Reilly's death "will always be on Lee Clegg's LEN ROAD WEST BELFAST, SEPTEMBER 30, 1990



Future in Army hangs in balance

DOUBT again surround Lance Corporal Clegg's future in the Army last night after his conviction on the charge of attempting to wound with intent was upheld. A prison sentence could result in his discharge. However, since he was

immediately reinstated in the Army when released from prison in July 1995, after serving four years for murder, it seems unlikely that he will be discharged if his planned appeal against the wounding conviction

The Army Board would hear representaer himself before making a decision. A spokesman for the Army said that Lance Corporal Clegg would stay in his job as a physical training instructor at the infantry training centre at Catterrick. Yorkshire until his legal case had been resolved.



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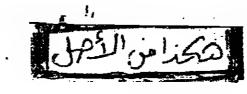
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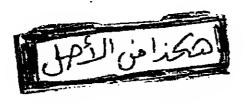
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Wembley is sold for £103m to FA-backed consortium

yesterday for £103 million to a consortium backed by the Football Association. The ground, with its famous Twin Towers. will be demolished and rebuilt.

A new 90,000-seater stadium - which the new owners said would be the finest in the world will now form the centrepiece of England's bid for the 2006 World Cup.

Demolition work will begin on the 76-year-old ground in northwest London next autumn, with a scheduled completion date of August 2003. The £20 million cost of retaining the twin towers puts their future in

jeopardy. Although the majority of shareholders opposed yester-day's sale, which leaves the neighbouring Wembley Arena concert venue in the hands of plc, the block vote of City institu-

tions proved crucial. Sir Bobby Charlton, one of the ambassadors for England's bid to bring the World Cup back to this country, said: "We have Work to rebuild stadium for 2006 World Cup bid will

start next year, write Adrian Lee and John Goodbody

the best bid in the world with Wembley behind it. We have had to be patient, but I am really pleased that it has now gone through and we can plan for the future." Sir Geoff Hurst, another supporter, said: "The name Wembley has a magnetism and excitement that is unique. That will not change."

The tight rebuilding schedule could, however, cost Britain the 2003 World Athletics champion-

The stadium now: big changes are planned in the rebuilding

ships, which begin five months after the £300 million redevelopment is expected to finish. France could now secure the slot. Demolition work should be-

gin after the millennium Cup Final is held in the stadium. The decision to sell the stadium yesterday was opposed by

three non-executive directors of Wembley plc and several independent shareholders. Jarvis Astaire, the deputy chairman,

argued that the offer from the English National Stadium Development Company - the name of the consortium - was too low.

The rebels favoured a bid by the American company SFX, of £220 million for the entire Wemhley complex, including the stadium, arena and conference venues.

The promoter who brought Live Aid and the Three Tenors to Wembley also condemned the sale of the stadium to the Football Association consorti-um. Barely able to conceal his anger, Harvey Goldsmith said: "I think it is appalling. It is the most ill-conceived deal I have ever heard of."

He described Wembley as "the biggest brand name in the world" and said that the decision to split the stadium's management from the neighbouring arena would prove disastrous.

na, a former swimming pool with a capacity of 10,000, would now lie untouched for years while the stadium was redevel-

The whole site should be developed at the same time, as one entertainment complex of which the country could be proud. Now what we are going to see is the stadium rebuilt in the middle of a mess. All this rubbish about the World Cup - you can't have it in the middle of a bomb site."

He was also scathing about the prospect of the Football Asso-ciation running the stadium. "Look at how the FA runs the FA. That speaks for itself." The new-look Wembley, home of the FA Cup Final since 1923, will include a hotel, ban-

visitor centre. Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, welcomed the decision and promised that the new ground would be the best in the



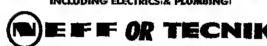
Looking ahead: Sir Bobby Charlton and Sir Geoff Hurst at Wembley yesterday

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Flood repairs to await dry-out

BY PAUL WILKINSON NORTH EAST CORRESPONDENT

IT COULD be months before people caught in the Ryedale floods can begin full restoration of their homes and businesses. Insurers facing a bill of up to £100 million have said that owners must wait until properties have dried out completely before starting repairs. Last night, officials warned

people to keep out of the flood water as it could be contaminated with raw sewage. A North Yorkshire council spokesman said: "Those with children should take care to stop them playing in the wa-ter. It could be a source of seri-ous infections. We have been assured by Yorkshire Water that the drinking-water sup-

plies remain clean." Vic Rance, of the Association of British Insurers, said that if people rushed to put things right before all damp-ness had dried out, they would make things worse. He said: "Insurers should be moving fast when it comes to payouts, but obviously people have to al-low their homes to dry out and

this could take a few months." The association has already made comparisons with flooding which hit the Midlands last April, costing insurers more than £100 million. Mr Rance said: "The damage in Ryedale could be as much." said it would be at least a week

The Environment Agency before the water levels had dropped enough for the cleanup operation to begin. More than 200 homes and at least 100 business have suffered in the worst floods since records began more that a century ago. Many had just a few inches of water in the ground floor. but some had water up to 5ft

Local trading standards officers yesterday warned residents to beware of cowboy builders who may target the area and add to their misery.

NEWS IN BRIEF Assault on vandal

unjustified

A man who caught a youth vandalising one of his fleet of buses was ordered to do 100 hours of community service after tying the boy's legs with wire and threatening to throw him into the docks.

At Cardiff Crown Court, Judge David Aubrey told Gordon Fifield. 53.of Barry, South Giamorgan: There can be no justification for the way you reacted." The youth, 14, was conditionally discharged.

Coma teenager

Lincolnshire health authority is to continue paying £1,400 a week to treat a boy in a coma since last April. Gregory Dygas, 17, from Louth, was said to be brain-dead, but is semiconscious and improving.

Website abuse

Abusive messages, purportedly sent between pupils at The King's School in Ely and at the City of Ely Community Website aimed at tourists. The schools are investigating.

Early visitor

A 12ft basking shark has been reported off Land's End, helieved to be the earliest in the year that a shark has been sighted off the southwest coast since records began, the Wildlife Trust reported.

Confession call

Roman Catholic bishops are calling on the 4.2 million Catholics in England and Wales to go to confession before the next millennium. A booklet published next month sets out the importance of confession.

ArtWatch lecture

Tickets for the ArtWatch lecture tonight at Burlington House, London, will not, as stated in a report yesterday, be available on the door.

TODAY IN Section 2

Read all about the experimend of the boyfriend of the ex-wife of the boyfriend of Anthea Turnet. Tabloid lunacy - page 40





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Flood repairs to await dry-out

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THE TIMES FRIDAY MARCH 12 1999

Prince is caught in election infighting

As royal party arrives in Uruguay, Alan Hamilton reports on the fallout from that Falklands speech

THE Prince of Wales left for the powerful and lucrative Argentina after a three-day official visit yesterday with the feeling that be had become a pawn in the country's internal politics as it moves towards a presidential election.

Fallout from his speech on the Falkland Islanders' right to self-determination continued to dog him on his last day in the country before flying across the River Plate to the safe neutrality of Uruguay. where he will spend two days before visiting the Falklands.

His visit to Uruguay will emphasise its developing commercial relationship with Britain. Last night the Prince laid a wreath at the memorial to General Artigas, the Uruguay-an national hero, and dined at the President's palace. Today he will meet business

people and tomorrow flies to the naval base at Punta del

"ROW" DISMISSED

Relations between Argentina and Britain are expected to be undamaged by the spat in Bue-nos Aires (Michael Evans writes). The Argentinian Foreign Minister and the country's Ambassador to Britain fully approved the Prince's remark about Argentina needing to live "amicably" with its offshore neighbour, and the Foreign Office was sanguine. Rogelio Pfirter, the ambassador, said: "We have said that we have no quarrel with the political reference made by His Royal Highness and, from our side, there is no row."

Este, where Britain has supplied much of the equipment. The Prince was to have visited a shanty town on the outskirts of Buenos Aires yesterday, but the engagement was cancelled by his Argentinian hosts. Carlos Ruckauf, the Vice-President, who called the Prince's speech "intolerable". said that the visit had been cancelled because the Prince's safety could not be guaranteed.

However, royal itinerary officials said that there was simply not enough time to make the journey to the edges of the vast city.

Señor Ruckauf is expected to stand in the October elections

post of Governor of Buenos Aires province. Fernando de la Rua, on the other hand, is the opposition Alliance Party candidate to succeed Carlos Men-

em as the country's President. He is head of the Buenos Aires city government, and yesterday was host to the Prince at an exhibition of British architecture in the city. Sud-denly, however, he directed the Prince into a side room for an unscheduled five-minute private audience.

"President Menem had his private talk with the Prince on Tuesday: his rival appeared not to want to be outdone," one of the Prince's staff observed.

Guido di Tella, the country's Anglophile but outgoing Foreign Minister, hailed the Prince's visit as a great success. "Of course there are a few people who disagree," he said. "We have extremists, and also politicians who are playing local politics."

Tony Lloyd, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, which sent the Prince to Argentina, said: "Prince Charles made the kind of speech that was parallel to the speech that President Menem made in London last year. We know we have differences on the Falklands. It is legitimate, though, to talk about a peaceful way of containing that process."

The country's Lower House of Congress has voted by a 159 majority that any attempt by Señor Menem to seek a third term as President would be a violation of the Constitution and a usurping of power. The vote does not have the

weight of law but carries a strong political message. Car-Senor Menem had not made up his mind about running. Buenos Aires newspapers were still reeling yesterday at

the Prince's speech. La Nación, under the headline Only a sentence, but what a sentence!" said that Señor Menem and his Government were taken by surprise by the Falklands remarks, and speculated that the speech was a coded hint of eventual Falklands independence from Britain.

How much do you

Leading article, page 23

love me?



The Prince of Wales meeting spectators after his polo team beat the Hurlingham Club 9-7 in Buenos Aires

Next stop: land of the full monty

HAVING done his bit for Anglo-Argentine ships, the Prince of Wales next pays a call on Uruguay, one of South America's small-

The Oriental Republic of Uruguay, sandwiched on the South Atlantic coast between Argentina and Brazil, is about the same size as mainland Britain. The population is only three million, half of which lives in the capital, Mootevideo.

The next most famous town is Fray Bentos, which gave corned beef its brand name when a London meat firm began operations there in 1864.

Wool is the principal export and, it has been suggested, the origin of the expression (and film title) "the full Monty". The best sheepskins were said to have come from Uruguay and were shipped from Mon-tevideo, so that fleecepackers graded them as "full Monte".

The country's best-known writer is Juan Carlos Onetti (works include No Man's Land and A Brief Life), but other famous Uruguayans tend to be sportsmen, such as Gus-

tavo Poyet, the Chelsea midfielder, and Pablo Lemoine. who plays rugby union for Bristol

Uruguay won the inaugural World Cup in 1930, beating Ar-gentina 4-2 at home in the fi-nal. It failed to qualify for France 98, being beaten in the qualifiers by Argentina.

Since winning its independence from Spain in 1825, Uruguay's politics have been dominated by two parties, the Colorados, ("reds", or Liberals and the Blancos ("whites", or Conservatives). Their rivalry punctuated the 19th century with frequent civil wars.

Thanks to José Battle y Ordonez, the Colorado Presi-dent in 1903-1907 and 1911-1915. Uruguay became the first welfare state in Latin America. Recently the two traditional parties have been in coalition to keep a left-wing alliance out of power.

Among the idiosyncracies Uruguayan law, it is notable that a busband who finds bis wife in bed with another man can claim the right to cut off her nose and castrate her



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BACK IN SELECT

Women urged not to desert cancer testing

ROUTINE breast cancer screening in Britain is now as good as the high standards reached in the clinical trials that led to it being introduced ten years ago, according to Juli-etta Patnick, national co-ordinator for the NHS breast-

screening programme. Staff involved in clinical triand more highly dedicated than those doing routine work, so their results tend to be better. Ms Patnick admitted yesterday that screening was not 100 per cent accurate, but she believed the programme was saving more than 1,000 lives a year.

She said that, despite this, some women were cancelling appointments for a screening

than 600,000 women who had been screened showed no sig-nificant reduction in death from the disease. The study. published this month, also said that 4,000 women were having operations and breasts removed unnecessarily after screening led to incorrect diagnoses of cancer.

"If women cancel, that is up to them," Ms Patnick said. "Only three out of five women [in Britain] come for a screening. But we have carried out ten million of them, far more than the Swedish study. It will take eight to ten years before we can definitely say we are sav-ing lives, but we believe it is sav-

ing 1,000 lives a year or more." Sweden pioneered breast cancer screening, but Goran Sjonell, one of the team in-

said that screenings had proba-bly been introduced there only because clinical trials gave a wrong impression of how useful a programme would be. We think that the findings illustrate the difference between trial conditions and real clinical practice," he said.

The Swedish study, which appeared in the journal Lakartidningen, has been strongly criticised by Mans Rosen, deputy director general of the Na-tional Board of Health and Welfare in Stockholm. Writing to the British Medical Journal, he said that the research would not have passed the tests for peer-reviewed publica-tion in the BMJ or "other distinguished journals". The researchers had not considered, for instance, that breast-cancer incidence trends varied among the 18 Swedish county councils studied, thereby influ-

encing mortality trends.
The national board in Sweden had no plans to change its advice on breast cancer screening "based on such a defective study", he said.

Michael Baum, Professor of Surgery at University College London, said that the Swedish report widened the debate over how the NHS should allo-



Cristina Ortiz's autumn collection for Lanvin, in Paris, featured bootleg trousers, new-style boob tubes, and simple yet beautiful evening dresses

FROM DEBORAH BRETT IN PARIS

CRISTINA ORTIZ, the former design director of Prada, seems to be finally settling into her role at Lanvin.

After three seasons the Spanish designer, 33, has managed to break away and create a look more her own. This is still sleek, with emphasis on detailing, but, spurning Prada's gimmicks. Ortiz sticks with the refined approach suited to the Lanvin customer, and

hopes to attract some new ones. Nevertheless, disco fever - which **Refined Ortiz finds** a look of her own

has come to Paris this season - hit the catwalk at yesterday's show, with glit-ter-speckled eyes, flowing tresses and hip-skimming molten leather trousers gliding down a mirrored catwalk. The and blousoned out around the waist. For evening, there were long skirts look was long, lean and polished, with

may have seemed like sacks, but close-up looked more interesting. Forget reg-ular darts: Ortiz constructed convex or concave seams to create shapes that transformed the line of the dress. The simplest of dresses were made exceptionally beautiful and glittering, with flattering bootleg trousers making a comeback, and versions of the boob vermilion or turquoise sequins. Luxury went into overdrive: clothes tube that were tight around the top

were made from cashgora (cashmere and angora), cashmere stretch, double face cashmere and cashmere and angora polar fleeces.

and sherbet lime, which, from afar,

The public and private sectors should settle their differences, pool resources and establish a single UK Cancer Centre in London for research and training, according to Karol Sikora, the British oncologist who is in charge of the World Health Organisation's cancer programme (lan Murray writes). Professor Sikora says in the British Medical Journal today

CALL FOR A SINGLE CANCER CENTRE

that the need for a leading institution has never been greater, because cancer therapy is likely to change soon with new treatment strategies. "What is needed to bring this concept to fruition is political will and capital investment by the public and private sectors," he says. "This would defuse the interpersonal bicketing that characterises hospital and university mergers."

40% of GPs | Nurses admit to attacked racism in NHS by patients

THE increase in violent attacks by patients on doctors and other staff is prompting the creation of a fortress

NHS" (Ian Murray writes).
A survey published today in BMA News shows that four out of ten GPs and a quarter of all hospital doctors have been assaulted by the patients they were trying to treat. The trend has persuaded four out of five family doctors to introduce se-

cirrity measures. "I feel wary when at work," said Jennifer Langdon, a Berk-shire GP. "All staff are trained in security matters and we have panic buttons in every room and closed-circuit television." A Somerset GP said: "We are more like Fort Knox than a medical centre."

John Chisholm, chairman of the BMA's GPs' committee, said it was very worrying. "Doctors and their staff are increasingly in the line of fire for violence, the threat of violence and verbal abuse."

DILLSTER

THE Royal College of Nursing admitted yesterday that institutionalised racism exist-

minorities in the National Health Service. In an emotive debate, during which some black nurses ran crying from the hall, Christine Hancock, the general seccongress in Harrogate that, as the sixth largest union in the country, members reflected

ed among nurses and was

blocking the careers of ethnic

of society. "I have to tell you I do not believe the RCN is any freer of institutionalised racism than any other large organisation," she said. "It is difficult for those of use who are white to really know and understand these issues. Whitening black people so we don't notice them

the strengths and weaknesses

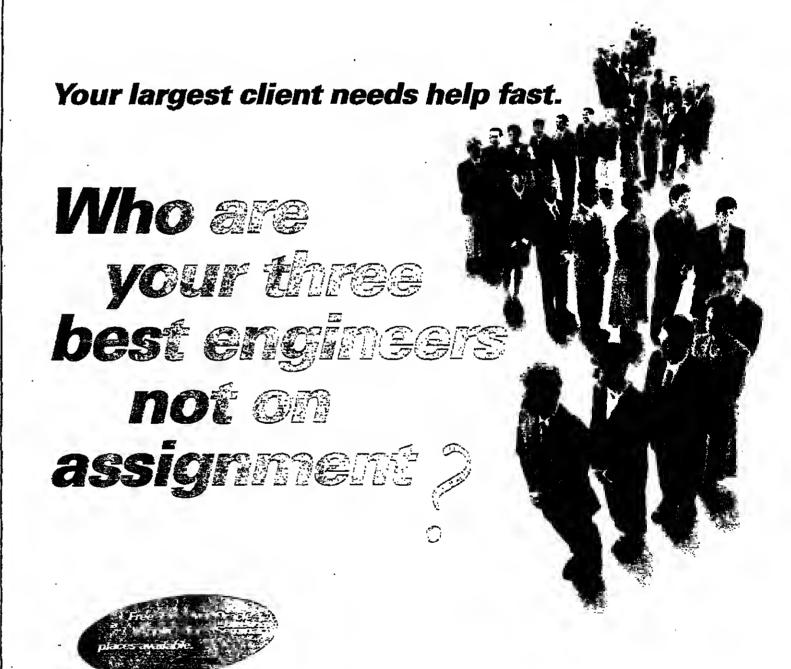
isn't the answer. It's valuing "We can only give the best care to patients if we value all our colleagues. We must listen when they tell us about their experience of racism."

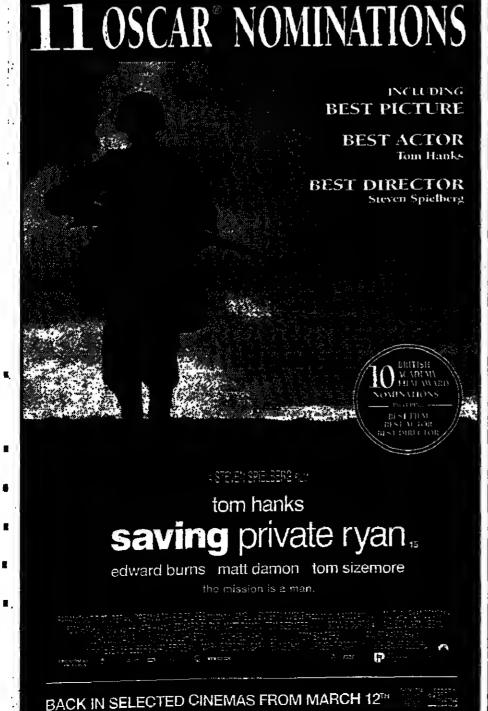
Margaret Moore, a nurse tutor from London, said she was reluctant to recruit students from ethnic minorities because she did not want them to be treated as she had been. "I am visible as a black woman here to stay and I want my contribution of over 30 years to health care to be recognised." A motion was carried overwhelmingly calling on the

to institutionalised racism. Christine Watson, the RCN president, said earlier this week that racism was wide-spread in the NHS. You're more likely to find black norses working night duty, less likely to find black nurses promoted into specialist areas."

RCN to address issues related

Schools racism, page 22





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The Saturday Times

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IRA steps up exile punishments

'Peace process' has an ironic ring for those banished from Northern Ireland, writes Martin Fletcher

cluding one who was armed, went to Mary O'Reilly's terraced home on Londonderry's grim Creggan estate one night last week. They barged inside as she opened the door. "Where's Gerry?" they demanded. Mrs O'Reilly said her 22-year-old son no longer lived there, but three of the men began searching the house while the one with the gun pushed her into the living room.
"What's this all about?"

asked Mrs O'Reilly. "You know, missus," the man replied. When she persisted he told her to ask at the local Sinn Fein office in the morning. The search proved fruitless. The armed man looked at the clock. It was 8.15pm. "Tell Gerry he has till 8.15 on Thursday - 48 hours - 10 get out of Derry for a year." he said.

Gerry had already gone. He, his pregnant girlfriend and their three-year-old daughter had fled two weeks earlier after the IRA visited his home on a neighbouring estate. He the roof. In 1995 he had speni

Who decides which shoes

you wear to work:

FOUR masked IRA men. in- four days in hospital after a gang beat him with sledge-hammers and nail-studded clubs, then left him 10p to call an ambulance.

He is now living with his family in emergency accommodarion provided by Northern Ireland's Housing Executive just outside the city. He has bolts on the doors and sleeps with two baseball bats by his bed. "He's a nervous wreck," said his mother. Mary O'Reilly is not her

real name. She dares not iden-

tify herself for fear of reprisals. Nor is her son's case in any way exceptional. In fact, he got off lightly. Loyalist and repubiled hundreds of people during the Troubles - petty criminals, the politically troublesome, those who threaten their rackets. Most were exiled from the Province, not just their communities. The practice is tolerated as a fact of life on Northern Ireland's paramilitary-controlled estates and those exiled are usually given 24 or 72 hours to get out.

vide them with ockets to England or Scotland and tempo-rary accommodation. Because most left quickly and silently, their cases attracted little attention, said Vincent McKenna of the Belfast human rights Voluntary organisations progroup Families Against Intimi-

dation and Terror (Fait). Unlike punishment beatings and kneecappings, "it's an easy way for terrorists to get rid of someone without any outcry". Far from diminishing, the

practice had "dramatically increased" during the ceasefire,

Londonderry's West Bank, from where families and individuals have had to flee after falling foul of paramilitary

said a spokesman for one of the volunteer groups. Entire families were now being banished. The paramilitaries had to show that they were still in control. With each exile they were sending out the message: We have not gone away."

Reliable figures are scarce, but that organisation is helping about two families and two individuals each month. Fail claims that 440 men, women and children were exiled last year, and 148 so far this. An RUC spokesman con-firmed that "the disgraceful practice of excluding people from their homeland is contin-

uing at a worrying rate". Mrs O'Reilly and her husband admit that their son is a petty criminal who has served four years for burglaries and

"He's not even a good thief he gets caught," she said.
 But "if he did something house and three jails to deal with him". The IRA's summary justice was a travesty. Both were early supporters

of "the 'Ra". They participated in the original civil rights marches - including the

Bloody Sunday protest m 1972 - because they were disgusted at how the police and Army treated Roman Catholics. But now "it's gone full circle and the IRA are doing everything that the Brits and police were doing, only worse. They have turned into the Mafia," said Mr O'Reilly.

The IRA ruled the estate through fear, the family said. We haven't had a ceasefire. The only difference is we're not being stopped and having our cars searched by the police and Army, but we're still waiting for the IRA to come to our door. They've called a ceasefire with the Army and

wrong, there's a big court-You, your wife or Sally Gunnell?

Scratch a senior executive and the odds are you'll find a man willing to defer to his wife's sense of what's suitable for the office. But one who'll take fashion tips from a former Olympic and Commonwealth Ladies' 400 Metre Hurdles Champion is, surely, a rarer breed. Perhaps. But before you run away with the wrong idea, allow us to explain. As a professional athlete, Ms. Gunnell goes to work in footwear designed to support her feet and protect them from the pounding of the track. So are we suggesting you sport a pair of trainers to the office? Not at all. But we would ask you to consider the benefits of wearing shoes that incorporate the same comfort tachnology. Spacifically, K CDX. TRACK TESTED PERFORMANCE. Built into the heels of K CDX is a shock absorption

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School has 50,000 reasons to cheer

AN INFANTS school in Warwickshire has become the first to collect more than 50,000 tokens in the Free Books For. Schools Scheme (writes Hannah Betts). This is enough for at least 500 books.

Stockingford Infant School in Nuneaton has enlisted the community in collecting the tokens from The Times, other News International newspary lunchtime teams of teachparents, grandparents and dinner ladies busy themselves cutting out tokens, which continue to pour in at a

rate of 1,000 per day. Nine local businesses, including newsagents, a petrol station, pubs and post offices. have rallied behind them. Pam Gresty, the head teacher,



said: "We are locky to be part of a supportive community. What strategy are you using to galvanise collection? Call 0171-895-9018 and tell us about it (office hours only).

Token, page 26

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Deal raises hope of EU cash freeze

the agreement on a new farm package brought cheer to Eu-ropean capitals yesterday. It shifts the biggest obstacle in the struggle to overhaul the way that the European Union raises and spends money.

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School has Sill

reasons io @

"Things are starting to move now — we will find a solu-tion," said Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the French Finance Minister, who is one of the key figures in the effort to wrap up a budget package on March 25 under Germany's EU presidency. The Germans say that they are now more op-timistic that, at a summit in Berlin, Chancellor Schröder will manage to broker a deal on Agenda 2000, the most ambitious spending reform at-tempted by the EU.

Resolving the technical side of a farm package was a vital first step because the common agriculture policy swallows almost half the EU's annual budget of £60 billion. However, strains between a newly assertive Germany and its French partner could halt an early settlement. The wrangle over farm reform produced the sharpest friction for years between the two core states.

To achieve the overall re-form target, however, the 15 leaders must agree unani-mously on a solution to a mind-boggling equation. The aim, backed by most states, is to freeze overall spending for the next six years, a feat not previously attempted in the EU's history of ever-rising

At the same time, funds have to be set aside to prepare for the entry of new member states from the east and hard-

Ministers agree on first step to reform, but big battles lie ahead,

reports Charles

Bremner

line demands from member states must be accommodated.
The main ones are Britain's insistence on retaining its spe-cial budget rebate, Germany's demand for a cut in its £8 billion armual contribution, and a refusal from Spain, Ireland and other poorer states to give up their lion's share of region-al aid and special subsidies that account for a third of the

Old hands from the busi-ness of EU financial horsetrading predict that the 15 will muddle through with a tangle of compromises that give just enough to each side to justify a claim to victory. The haggling could fail to produce a solution in Berlin and be carried on to a summit in Cologne in June. Under fire from its EU part-

the presidency so far, Germany is trying to narrow the op-tions for a final compromise. This is likely to include limited sacrifices for the southern states, plus a more modest shift in the German contribution than originally demanded by Herr Schröder. Britain's rebate, worth about £2 billion a year, is almost certain to survive, but with a provision that

will not entitle it to money

back on its share of the costs of enlarging the EU to Poland, Hungary and other eastern states. Britain's isolation over its rebate was underlined yesterday when the European Parliament voted to end the money-back arrangement negotiat-ed by Mrs Thatcher in 1984.

farm package could unravel, bringing down the whole spending edifice, over a fight on how to control the overall cost. Germany, Britain and other states wanted a new system to hand part of the farm money back to member states. This would partly answer German demands for a cut in its share of the budget. Paris wants to limit farm spending and the EU budget by phasing out direct subsidies to farmers. Both items are likely to go

back on the table in Berlin. In the meantime, foreign and finance ministers are embarking on a round of negotiations

It is still possible that the mism" at the settlement from one farmer whose family

> son writes). But Gordon Meck, who owns 400 acres at Ponteland. is now considering diversifying into more profitable areas as his income declines. He

Farmers' optimism grows

have been raising cattle and growing cereal crops in Northumberland for more has aiready seen profits drop by about 80 per cent in the than a century (Paul Wilkinpast five years. "It's a lot better than we

might have expected," he said. The reports coming out of Brussels a couple of weeks ago were very discouraging. We must wait for the fine print to emerge over the next couple of weeks, but, on the face of it, the settlement is not too bad." Subsidies for his 250 beef

cattle and 200 acres of winter wheat and barley at Eland Hall Farm will be cut by 20 We have got to accept that this is the way the future is going and adjust to deal with it," said Mr Meek.

dropped alarmingly over recent years because of the BSE

France's huge and then ineffi-

The main spur for reform

this time was twofold. The EU

must comply soon with inter-

national trading rules that bar

subsidies to farmers and ex-

porters and it must also whip

itself into shape before the en-

try, probably within ten years

of Poland and four other states

from the former Communist

bloc. Applying the CAP to Po-

land, an inefficient agricultur-

al giant where half the work-

force is employed in agricul-

cient farm sector.

cut in the cereal intervention price might be, but it is not as steep as we first thought it was going to be.

"I will now have to sit down and look at alternatives. Orbut that is still a limited market and it requires a lot of in-vestment to get it started."

Topsy-turvy world where spending saves money

The days of lavish subsidies are numbered, reports Charles Bremner

YESTERDAY'S breakthrough in Europe's attempt to get to ners for shaky management of grips with its runaway farm budget offered a glimpse of the topsy-turvy world of the com-mon agriculture policy: in order to cut the cost of subsidising farmers, European taxpayers will have to spend billions more than at present.

Like everything involving the CAP, the odd arithmetic has a logic of its own, once you factor in the imperatives behind the 37-year-old system that pays farmers to produce food at higher-than-market prices and stops importers undercutting them. Put simply, the farmers have to be paid

some £5 billion more in the next six years to wean them off a system that would otherwise drive the European Union into bankruptcy. The cuts of up to 20 per cent

agreed yesterday in the EU's fixed prices for cereals, milk and beef are not spectacular,

but they mark acceptance by all governments that the days of lavish subsidies are num-

sophical watershed, because governments started cutting the fixed-price system in 1992 and substituting direct com-pensation, along with the notorious system of set-aside land. That so-called McSharry reform sparked riots in France, the towering beneficiary of the CAP, and an explosion in EU

paperwork for farmers. However, the new accord will give producers a hefty shove towards market economics by bringing prices closer to world levels. To the anguish of many smaller farmers already facing severe hardship, cereal producers will receive cheques for about only half their losses. beef farmers will get about 80 per cent and milk farmers will have 60 per cent compensation

for the time being. The immediate spur for the latest reform was not the need, argued by Britain and the Nordic states, to slam the brakes on a cash machine that shovels half the entire EU budget into a sector that employs 5 per cent of workers. As the recipient of £700 million of annual subsidies and a cultural belief in the sanctity of the farmer, France was ready to extend the life of the machine that was de-

ture, and its neighbours, would empty EU coffers. vised in a 1950s pact with Germany. This gave the Germans The European Commission and farm ministers are putting great store by the way the an export market for manufactured goods in return for a new reform recognises a

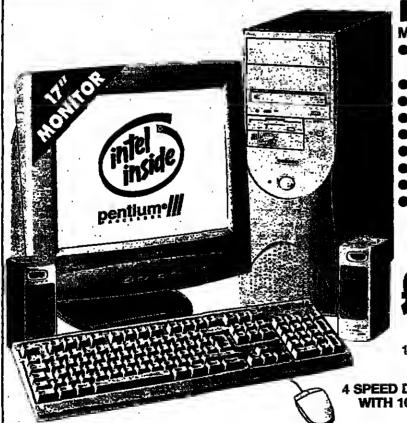
broader role for government support. Farmers, for example, will be rewarded for environmentally friendly methods.

The reforms are also supposed to curb the scope for fraud. With so much money on offer, farmers have shown great ingenuity, claiming imaginary crops. The drive to combat the fraud has prompted EU inspectors to resort to satellite photography and other high-tech methods to measure true areas under plantation. Farmers are likely to be tempted by shady practices as long as the subsidy system ex-ists, according to Commission

In the meantime, continental EU governments are bracing for another bout of demonstrations by angry farmers.

Leading article, page 23





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Anti-euro vote 'no guarantee of victory'

ANTI-SINGLE currency campaigners were warned yesterday that winning a referendum to keep the pound early in the next Parliament would only be the start of their struggle (Roland Watson writes).

Rodney Leach, chairman of Business for Sterling, said: "We would be asked to vote again undl we come up with the right answer. It's a battle that would have to be won again and again. Mr Leach was speaking at a head-to-head debate In Westminster with Sir Clive Thompson, the proeuro CBI president, in the first of many such clashes

between opposing sides. Sir Clive said that busiess would desert Britain if it remained outside the single currency. He claimed that two thirds of businessmen wanted to see Britain sign up to the euro within the next five

Anthony Howard,

Hereditary peers incited to revolt against expulsion

By James Landale POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

HEREDITARY peers have received an extraordinary call to rise up in rebellion against the Bill which would expel them from the House of Lords. Old-fashioned poster bills

have been sent anonymously to all 600-plus hereditary members urging them to block the legislation when it comes before the Lords at Easter. The call to arms has been attacked by Tory and crossbench chiefs and dismissed as the work of a maverick crossbench peer trying to incite revolt.

But the poster provided a clear signal to the Government that some hereditary peers are prepared to go down fighting. And it was an uncomfortable warning to Tory chiefs that some hereditaries are beyond the control of party whips.
The House of Lords Bill, de-

signed to scrap the voting and sitting rights of hereditary peers, will receive its third reading in the Commons next

KITIK-FIF



the Lords on March 29. The A3-sized poster says the

rights of hereditary peers should not be "lightly surren-dered". It also insists that peers should not be bound by the so-called Salisbury Convendon under which the Lords agrees not to throw out legislaoon contained in an incoming Government's manifesto.

It ends: "You must attend the second reading debate and kill the Bill." before adding: The game's afoot."

If the Bill were to be rejected at second reading — some-thing the Lords never does — it would die immediately. The Government would almost certainly reintroduce it under the Parliament Acts and force it

onto the statute book. It is possible that an amendment is tabled at second reading but would almost certainly be de-

Lord Strathclyde, the Tory leader in the Lords, said: "This has nothing to do with the Tory party. But it shows the depth of concern felt by some people towards this Government's assault on the constitution and Parliament."

Lord Weatherill, former Commons Speaker and convenor of the crossbenches. said he had investigated rumours that a crossbench peer had been responsible. But all the peers he had spoken to had denied sending the poster. One peer said: "I think some

one was rifling through their drawer and came across some propaganda from the 1911 campaign against reform. He probably just touched it up and gave it a second outing." A Labour spokesman in the Lords said: "This is another example of a section of hereditary peers who are totally out

of touch with the real world."



Buddy politics: Tony Blair and Gordon Brown taking to the airwaves for a phone-in on Talk Radio yesterday

Now for something completely different

TONY BLAIR and Gordon Brown launched a new form of "buddy politics" with a joint appearance to defend the Budget on a radio programme. The Prime Minister and his Chancellor had been invited onto Talk Radio to discuss income tax relief and fuel

By MARK INGLEFIELD, POLITICAL REPORTER

and hear the music playing in Downing Street in the afterlevies, but they could not resist projecting themselves as a pair of back-slapping, regular guys. Dropping his prudent facade. Mr Brown talked about his boss's love of rock and roll. "You can come back

noon ... and that's before the kids get home," he quipped. This was the first time that any Chancellor or Prime Minister had appeared on a radio programme together, and was seen as part of Mr Blair's drive to stop the media trivialising politics. It certainly left listeners in no doubt that Mr Brown and Mr Blair were bosom pals. When asked about their friendship, the Prime Minister said it was "the best relationship I know in British

ples, among them Peter and Virginia Bottomley.

politics" - something that

might come as a surprise to Westiminster's married cou-

there was a rift between them. This is a relationship forged in very difficult times, and in Government it will hold."

Bonr

Lafo

But this badinage was rudely interrupted by the callers. who were almost entirely criti-cal of the Budget. Dave from Birmingham claimed that it had left birm had just ridden "Dick Turpin had just ridden through his living room".

When another caller complained about fuel duties, the Chancellor told him: "Why don't you write to me and I'll

get this sorted out." Only at the end did Mr Brown's chumminess waver. Emulating The Two Ronnies, Mr Blair signed off with "It's goodhye from me". Mr Brown hesitated. "Er. and I suppose I should say it's good-

THE OLD ONES ARE THE BEST

On "living above the shop" Mr Blair conceded; "It is a strange situation to be in; in David Blunkett (Education Secretary) comes round with his compulsory school lessons and Jack Strew comes

Chancellor have used both jokes before. In an April 1997 telection broadcast Mr Blair a way, but once the door of promised his children they would have "lots of homework when David Blunkett gets hold of you". On May friends he intended sending round with the curiew." curiew on the Bleir children
The Prime Minister and if they made too much noise.

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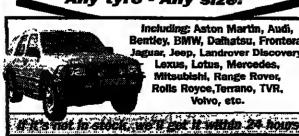
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tives exercised by the Prime Minister and other ministers rather than the limited remaining personal prerogatives of the Crown. These executive prerogatives, still misleadingly exercised in the name of the Crown, include declarations of war and the commitment of British troops; signing or ratifying treaties; recognising foreign governments: assenting to European

Benn's new Bill finds friends left and right ony Benn is one of the

most infuriating as well as one of the most original politicians of the postwar era. He has been wrong on many central issues of the past generation and, 20 years ago, largely created the myth that Labour members had been betrayed by their leaders which came within a whisker of tearing the party apart. But he has also been the sin-

gle greatest influence on constitutional reform up to the election of the Blair Gov-Benn is responsi-ble not merely for RIDDELL allowing peers to ON POLITICS

ties but also for the now reguiar use of referendums. He has also been persistent and clear-sighted in warning about the growth of executive power and defending the rights of the Commons, not least by making speeches as opposed to soundbites. It has often been easy for ministers and media to dismiss his initiatives merely because they come from him as just one of Tony's eccentricities". Yet, this month, he has pro-

duced a Bill which has gained the support not just of the La-bour Left but also of four Tory MPs. This includes not only Richard Shepherd, the Tories' constitutional conscience, but also David Davis, whom no one has ever called a Bennite. and two other select committee chairmen.

The proposal is the grandly titled Crown Prerogatives (Parliamentary Control) Bill. but, in practice, it is mainly about the executive prerogalegislation; appointing bish-ops, judges, peers, ministers,

public bodies, establishing Royal Commissions, the issue of many orders in council; and executive powers not conferred by statute. These powers can, at present, be exercised without the approval of Parliament. But Mr Benn proposes that they should require the assent of the Commons.

This not just a theoretical matter. Several MPs of all parties have recently complained that the Government has not sought recent approval by the Commons for military action over Iraq. Moreover. months ago, the

Treasury committee pressed, unsuccessfully, for members. of the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England to be confirmed by the Com-mons. Mr Benn presented the measure as an attempt to redress the balance between the executive and the legislature As he concedes, the Bill is unpopular with those who exercise patronage since they would have to be more accountable for their decisions.

The Bill also proposes that the appointment of Prime Ministers (technically inviting someone to form an administration) and the dissolution of Parliament before the expiry of the five-year maximum should require the assent of the Commons. This affects the personal prerogatives of the Crown, but that is no reason why they should not be debated and considered, though possibly separately from the strictly executive prerogatives.

Mr Benn's Bill stands no chance of becoming law. But he and his supporters have raised an issue which goes to the heart of complaints of high-handedness by Government It is now up to MPs themselves to take forward the debate. Perhaps the Public Administration Select Committee should hold an inquiry. to complement its current examination of the accountability of public bodies.

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Speedy downfall of 'Red Oskar' is greeted with glee in London THI resignation of Oskar Latontainwas greeted with scarcely conceald gice by the British Govern-

menlast night.

Hir Lafontaine — a strong supports of greater European integration - had become a serious problem n Tony Blair's pro-European Government. He was an uncomfortale reminder to the Prime Minster of the spectre of Old Labourwhich he had to banish to win is landslide election victory. Andhe troublesome Finance Ministervas a serious obstacle to GerGerman minister was awkward reminder of Old Labour, Philip Webster writes

hard Schröder, the German Chancellor, following the path of eco-comic reform that Mr Blair has been urging on him and the rest of

Herr Schröder's instincts are in the right place, according to Brit-ish ministers, but the Third Way was not for "Red Oskar" and had

result. His federalist ambitions were also an embarrassment to London as it tries to win public opinion over to the euro. The swift rise in the fledgling currency at news of his departure was being poted in London.

He infuriated the Government with his demands last year for Eu-

Downing Street to fight off a rash of damaging press reports that Briting him the thumbs down and that ain would be forced to put up taxes to continental levels.

Officially the line from Downing Street was that his departure was a matter for the German Government. Privately, however, senior diplomats are convinced that Herr Schröder deliberately gave Herr Lafontaine enough rope with

which to hang himself.
One said: We have seen this coming. Schröder is a lot shrewder than people give him credit for. In was enough for Schröder.

Diplomats say that Germany's six-month presidency of the EU has been affected by the turmoil in its Government. There was criticism of the haphazard organisation of last month's special summit in Bonn and there was a big question mark last night over the implications for the crunch twoday meeting of EU leaders on the budget in Berlin at the end of this

John Major, the former Prime Minister, said last night: "Lafontaine has been the grit in the German oyster. It seems clear that there has been a serious policy division between him and the German

"t hope his resignation will mean a clear and coherent German economic policy from now on, since this is important not only for Germany, but across Europe." Tony Benn, the veteran Labour MP and former Cabinet Minister

said: "This is a victory for the defla-

forces in the German Government. "He is no more dangerous than Keynes. It is because he is so far to the left of every political party in Britain at the moment that he is being presented as a villain."

Gerald Howarth, a Tory MP and prominent Euroscepoc. said: "He has done more than any other elected politician to spell out in words of one syllable what the objectives are of so many continental politicians: namely, the creation of a United States of Europe.

Bonn is plunged into chaos as Lafontaine goes

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

OSK/R LAFONTAINE, the Germn Finance Minister once abbed the "most dangerous can in Europe", yesterday lot his long-running pow-er striggle with the Chancellor. Grhard Schröder, and resigne from all his offices.

The Social Democrat-led Government has been thrown into havoc and so too has the European Union. Germany holds he presidency of the EU and he key figure in prepar-ing is financial reforms is Herr. afontaine.

Hisplans for a more tightly integrated Europe and for compreheisive tax harmonisation - an nitiative which irritated Britaii - will not be abandonec, but they will be presented in a less forthright style. Confised Germans were yesterda telephoning each other in selrch of an explanation, but he deepest shock was probably felt in Paris.

Thiplump 55-year-old Saar-lande, a fluent French-speaker. has kept the Franco-German alliance alive during a cismal and tense period. The nuch-vaunted Franco-Gernan dialogue has amounted over the past few months to an elergetic conversation be-treen Herr Lafontaine and Edminique Strauss-Kahn, the

French Finance Minister. Now nobody is talking. Herr Lafontaine's resignation from the Finance Ministry and from the chairmanship of the Social Democratic Party removes a thorn from the side of the Chancellor. But it also leaves a dangerous void

The Sun front page which

depressed Lafontaine

in the Social Democrat-Green

not one of the targets. But late on Wednesday, af-

was the Government's ideological backbone, the only minister who stood for anything. Herr Schröder's Government. barely six months after the defeat of Helmut Kohl, has never looked so close to collapse: there can be no more damning statement than the resignation of a Finance Minister. It followed a stormy Cabinet

meeting on Wednesday. Herr Schröder barked at his ministers and threatened them indirectly with his own resignation. If the Red-Green Government continued m agitate against the interests of business, scaring away invest-ment, he said, "then the point will come when I can no longer take responsibility for such

The words were directed at the Environment Minister, Jürgen Trittin, and at Herr Lafontaine, whose garbled corpo-rate tax reforms have led to protests from the boardrooms of utilities and insurance com-Herr Lafontaine backed the Chancellor at a Cabinet meeting as if he were

ter a long conversation with his wife, Christa Müller, he decided to step down. There was no way in a Schröder Govern-



him to make a joke out of it.

ment that he would be able to realise his dream of a redistributive, demand-led, modern, social democratic economy. As a Finance Minister, he was under fire from all sides. From the European Central Bank, for urging lower interest rates. From ordinary Germans, who saw no merit in his income-tax reforms. From business bosses, furious at

plans to tax reserves or raise

corporate taxation. And from

the Social Democratic Party

itself, which was complaining

Advisers were urging him to give up the party chairmanship since its role in day-to-day government was beginning to shrivel. Yet this would have weakened him fatally, making him only one minister among many. He had either to resign both positions or stay in place. Despite his apparent fail-ures. Herr Lafontaine had

time on his side. But both the Chancellor and Herr Lafontaine are vain men. The erstwhile Finance Minister is easi-

about his lack of leadership.

ly wounded by criticism. Even the Sun attack - the "most dangerous man in Europe" left him huri and dismayed until M Strauss-Kahn urged

His options now are unclear. For a few days rumours have been circulating that he will be Germany's candidate for the EU presidency. But it seems improbable that all European leaders would support him in an attempt to succeed Jacques Santer. The lack of prospects leaves him restless.

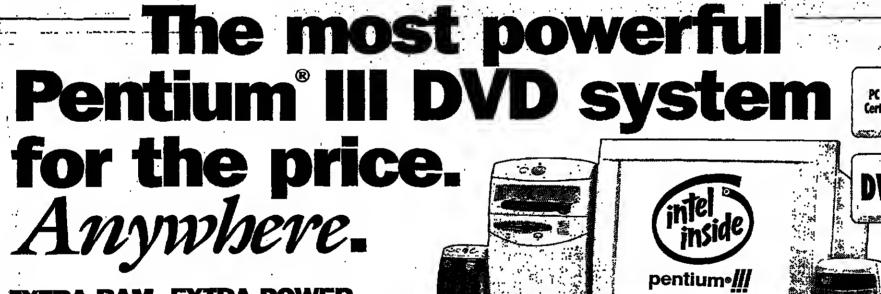
outside government — a loose written with his wife, is a personal manifesto. Called Don't Be Afraid of Globalisation. cannon that could prove lethal for the Chancellor.

ban on overtime. This retreat

could be measured. His book,

Herr Schröder's strategy they set out their plan for a since winning the general elec-tion last September has been to allow Herr Lafontaine to left-leaning German republic. It has already become plain to Herr Lafontaine that none of over-extend himself. Gradualthese ideas will be realised. ly the minister has had to re-He once had high hopes of treat from his cherished posibecoming the first Social Demtions - his wish for target exocratic leader since Helmut Schmidt. But the personal popchange rate zones, for wideranging controls of internaularity of Herr Schröder kept tional capital markets, for a him in check.

Leading article, page 23



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Computer Active January 1999

Schindler of the art world back in the picture

THE memoirs of Varian Fry, a long-forgotten American wartime hero who rescued some of the greatest cultural figures of the 20th century from the clutches of the Gestapo, were finally published in France yesterday, more than 30 years after he died alone and in obscurity, largely ignored by those he risked his life to save.

Fry. dubbed "the artists" Schindler', was a Harvardeducated young journalist when he left New York for France in 1940 to help European artists and intellectuals to escape Nazi persecution.

Among those he helped to save were Marc Chagail, Max Ernst, Hannah Arendt, Marcel Duchamp and André Breton. In all, Fry rescued more than 4,000 people, including British soldiers trapped in



Susan Bell

writes in Paris of new fame for an American who saved 4,000

Even before arriving in France, Fry had had firsthand experience of the horrors of Nazism. As a foreign correspondent for an American journal, The Living Age, he had witnessed the first Nazi pogrom against the Jews on a trip to Berlin in 1935.

On his return to the United States he became involved with the American Emergency Rescue Committee and jumped at the chance to return to

> dered dollars for his cause.
>
> Among his most devoted associates was Mary Jayne
> Gold, a beauoful Chicagoborn heiress who came to Paris in the Thirties "to have a good ome". When the Nazis narched down the Champs Elysées in 1940, Gold moved Marseilles, where she met Fry. She provided much need-

Europe. Armed with a letter of introduction from Eleanor Roosevelt, a list of 200 endangered intellectuals and \$3,000 strapped to his leg. Fry headed for Marseilles, the last big French port not under German control, and set up his headquarters in a third-floor room of the Hotel Splendide.

The Marseilles Fry describes in his memoir. The Black List, was crammed with refugees who feared that they would be turned over to the Nazis under the "surrender on demand" clause in the Franco-German armistice. Soon the hotel was crowded with desperate refugees who saw the American as their last hope of

obtaining exit papers.
Fry quickly became skilled at arranging emergency visas, false passports and forged identity cards and smuggled thousands of people out by boat or across the Spanish border on foot. He lobbied the US Administration, sympatheoc consuls and friends in high places, denounced the internment camps and laun-

Varian Fry in his office in spring. 1941. He died in 1967, almost wholly forgotten, even by those he rescued Fry was sent to France on a three-week assignment to help 200 refugees to escape, but he held on for 13 months. He might have saved many more than 4,000 if the US State Department, anxious to mained financial help and was not averse to using her looks to persuade officials to turn a tain good relations with Vichy, had not betrayed him, plotting with the French authorioes to blind eye to the rescue work.

have him expelled for "protecting Jews and anti-Nazis".

saddened and embittered, Fry returned to America, where he taught Latin until his death in 1967. He remained obsessed by the Holocaust: "I would like to forget that look (of a woman refu-gee)." he wrote. "Even if only

for five minutes. I deserve that small respite. But I cannot." His memoirs were pub-

lished in America in 1945, but quickly went out of print and his courage was forgotten. although France did honour him shortly before he died with the Légion d'honneur.

this situation looks set to the Nations by the Israeli Yad

cation of his moving memoir, change. Last year Fry became the first American to be made one of the Righteous Among Vashem Holocaust Memorial Museum. And in Marseilles an exhibition dedicated to him

Agneli 'rescues' House of Savoy antiques

imba ails w docti ver cl deat

suicide in

FROM RICHARD OVEN IN ROME

GIANNI AGNELLI the 78-year-old patriarch f Fiat whose power and inuence have earned him the tile "the uncrowned king of hale, yesterday emerged as a tystery buyer who bid at Sothby's in London this week for lith-century antiques which oce belonged to Italy's royalfamily, the House of Savoy.

In an unusual move Sotheby's agreed on Wedneslay to a request from the Italia police to freeze the sale of 24ots for 35 days to allow investgators to establish whether the export licences were in order.
Italian MPs and polce yes-

terday continued to clam that the royal furniture war of na-tional importance. ad that the export licences — which they do not deny are alid had been obtained by resenting the items in five different provincial fine arts ofices of the Ministry of Cultury

"If the items had been viewed in their entirey. Italian officials would live assessed them as a ellection and blocked their export," said General Roberto Onforti, head of the carabinier section dealing with fine arts efences.

La Stampa, the Turn newspaper, said that a number of wealthy Italians had fown to London to attend the sale, which raised more that £8 million, in response to acall by Signor Agnelli for a "atriotic rescue operation".

It emerged that before the sale Signor Agnelli bought four wall-mounted gilded candelabra decorated with Meissen porcelain - whichonce belonged to King Umberto II. the last Italian monarch with the aim of donating them to Turin. The city is the scalof the former royal family and the headquarters of Fiat and the Agnelli empire.

The collection was purso-gether by Giuseppe Rosi, who was close to ex-King Imberto, who went into exil in Portugal in 1946. After Signor Rossi's death it passed tohis sister, now 80, who plan to fund various charities, including one for young jobless.



Marc Chagall and Hannah Arendt Fry helped both

Checkmate for German chess king as 'Fritz' leaves cheat exposed

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE German chess world is in uproar over a 55-year-old minor league club player whose stunning victories against Russian grandmasters were allegedly the result of an electronic fraud rather than mas-

Clemens Allwermann is a retired hi-fi salesman who until recently was content to play at his local club-

house in southern Germany. Suddenly, at a chess tournament in Böblingen, he won mate in eight moves against the Russian grandmaster Sergei Kalinichev, one of the world's top players, and stormed on to win first prize. Again and again, the crucial

game was replayed by German chess enthusiasts to analyse Herr Allwermann's lucid play. Then somebody noticed the similarity between the moves, and those proposed by the computer chess programme "Fritz 5.32". The game, so to speak, was up. Herr Allwermann, it appears.

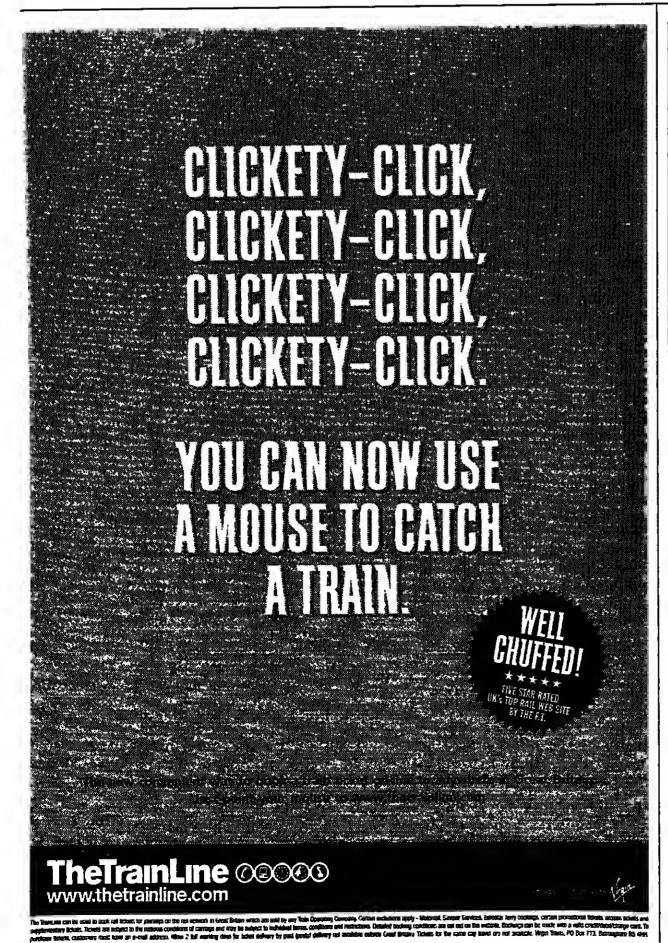
used a messager hidden on his lap. The grandmaster would make his move and Herr Allwermann, reaching down apparently to adjust his trousers, would punch it into the device. At the other end of the transmitter was an accomplice in a room in the hotel where the tournament was being staged. The friend typed the moves into Fritz 5.32 and waited for the computer's advice. The counter-moves were then relayed into a miniature ear receiver concealed by Herr Allwermann's long hair.

After his surprising victories he has been so closely watched by spectators that he has lost every game. Electronics shops have confirmed that they sold the apparatus to Herr Allwermann and the German chess and sports authorities are calling for blood. Egon Ditt, president of

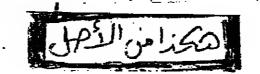
the German Chess Federation, wants Herr Allwermann to be banned for several years. This is not just a prank. We have to send a signal to the world that chess tournaments are not going to be distorted in the same way that chemical doping has distorted athletics. This Is electronic doping and has to be punished accordingly."

At top levels there have been frequent allegations of cheating. In the heyday of Viktor Korchnoi, Boris Spassky and Bobby Fischer - whose international clashes became part of the great Cold War game - allegations flowed about the use of hypnotists, telepathy and even coded yoghurt pots. But it was only a matter of time before cheating at chess became high-tech. The big question now is how fu-

ture fraud can be prevented. Some suggest body searches along the lines of airport security before entering the tournament room.







hment Zimbabwe jails white doctor over child deaths

AN ANAESTHETIST, who has been pilloried by black radicals here as a latter-day version of Josef Mengele, the Auschwitz SS doctor, experi-menting on black patients, had his conviction for causing the deaths of two children by negligence confirmed by the

Supreme Court yesterday. Dr Richard McGown, 62, is due to: begin serving a sixmonth jail sentence in Harare central prison tomorrow for the death of a 20-month-old boy in 1988. He also has to pay a £160 fine for the 1990 death

of a 10-year-old Kenyan girl. Mark Stonier, his lawyer, vesterday told prison authories that he was concerned for Dr McGown's safety in pris-on. When he was jailed briefly in 1995, he was kept apart from other prisoners.

Dr McGown was "surprisingly together" after the court ruling. Mr Stonier said.

Born in India of Scottish parents. Dr McGown was regarded by colleagues as a skilled anaesthetist and a pioneer in the technique of injecting morphine into the spine, seen as a major advance in reducing

of has M :011 × 10 @



Dr McGown: accused of

Kalpesh Nagindas, the boy toddler, had been given a heavy dosage of morphine for a routine circumcision. Dr McGown handed him over to his parents 28 minutes after the operation instead of keeping him in hospital for a period of observation.

Lavender Kaminwa died of respiratory depression that followed a high morphine dosage for an appendectomy. Dr McGown "saw fit to send Lavender to a general ward where only one nurse was on duty. managing ten patients in five different rooms".

The Supreme Court deci-sion closes what is probably the most extraordinary legal proceedings in the country's history, underlining the deep divisions between blacks and whites in Zimbabwe,

A parliamentary report in 1993 stirred up a frenzy of race hatred when it denounced Dr McGown for alleged racist experiments on black women and suggested that he injected black patients with the Aids

The report was discredited, but it did not stop public dem-onstrations by black militants who threatened to "amputate whites" if Dr McGown was not given a severe prison sen-

The controversy continued to the end. Two weeks ago the Supreme Court admitted that a draft of the judgment had been stolen from the desk of the appeal judge. Ahmed Ebrahim, and given to journalists

Last Friday the band of the prison services led a march by K radicals calling for Di McGown to be hanged and for the sacking of the Chief Justice, Anthony Gubbay. Justice Ministry officials said later the band had been "duped" into leading the demonstration.

Economic woes drive families to suicide in Japan

ultiple suicides, in which children are forced to die with ly as Japan's economic crisis grows worse, a study showed

yesterday. Last year 72 children were the victims of family suicides, according to the Child Abuse Prevention Network, a private group based in Aichi, central Japan. This marked a sharp increase over the 46 such deaths in 1997, and 38 the previous year.

Thirty mothers and 20 fathers were involved in last year's spate of ikka shinju family suicides where parents decide it is more humane to take their children with them in death rather than leave them with a stigma of failure.

But if the motive is "honour-able", the reality is often grisly. Last September, three children and their mother were burnt to death when the father set fire to the family home. The man, who was rescued against his will, told police he planned to die with his family so they could escape together from his

mounting debts. In another case last October, a woman who could not repay a finance company's consumer loan died with her two childen when she drove her car over a 230ft cliff.

The incidents have become the company says there so commonplace that, if reported by the press at all, they command only a few lines on the inside pages. Researchers ound that "the increase in amily suicides appears to relect the severe economic situaion and the debt trap people ind themselves in as a result".

A prolonged slump has drivn thousands of companies to he wall and pushed unemdoyment to a postwar record ugh. Though Japan has the orld's second largest econo-7y, it lacks the social safety et common in Western counies. "People around 50 have to die.

More children killed by parents, writes Robert

Whymant in Tokyo

given their whole lives to a company and find themselves being edged out as the recession gets worse," Ryu Otomo, a writer, said. "There is a spreading mood of fear."

In a trend that is alarming railway operators, many peo-ple are choosing to kill themselves by leaping in front of trains. On Monday, train services in the Tokyo area were thrown into chaos when four men in their fifties chose this

method of ending it all. It was the highest one-day toll in the capital since Novemaged men threw themselves in front of trains on a national holiday."The situation is becoming very serious," said a spokesman for East Japan Railways Company, which operates some of the busiest lines in the Tokyo area. "There are no effective measures we can take to preven!

were 78 spicides on its Tokyo region lines in the nine months from March to December last year, compared to 77 in the previous 12 months. A surge in recent weeks is likely to lift the total for fiscal 1998, which ends on March 31, closer to 90.

these suicides."

Japanese commuters spend countless hours of their lives on packed trains, umbilical cords between their bomes and workplaces. For that reason, Mr Otomo believes, they may see the railway lines as a "familiar and homely place"



President Khatami of Iran is welcomed at the Vatican yesterday by the Pope at the end of his historic three day visit to Italy. The trip has symbolised his country's attempt to break out of its "pariah" status 20 years after

the Islamic revolution which

Italy hails Iran reformer

chard Owen writes). The President also had talks with Massimo D'Alema, the Italian Prime Minister, who praised "the new openness

with which Iran is looking at Europe". The visit - to be followed next month by talks in Paris - was dogged by demonstrations by Iranian dissidents and a controversy over

the simultaneous presence on Italian soil of Salman Rushdie, author of The Satanic Verses. Mr Rushdie said that, if Iran wanted to normalise its relations with the world", the best way

British outrage as more 'spies' are expelled by Congo

By Sam Kiley, Africa Correspondent

and Foreign Office officials as well as a US State Department employee were yesierday expelled from the Democratic Republic of Congo after being accused of spying and illegally entering an army base carrying sophisocated photographequipmeni"

The move yesterday, a day after a British diplomat was expelled on the same charges. immediately sparked outrage at the Foreign Office, which repeated its denial that the men were involved in spying.

These people were not spies. Their purpose there was wholly innocent. We would have been guilty of irresponsibility if these plans for a possible evacuation in the event the Congo's war spread to the capital were not put forward," Tony Lloyd, the minister re-

sponsible for Africa, said. The expulsions came as Robin Cook, the Foreign Secre-tary, and his French counterpari, Huberi Vedrine, started a joint tour of Africa in Ghana, There have been deep suspicions of the motivations of

FOUR more Bridsh soldiers both countries in backing different sides in the Great Lakes catastrophe which has led to the collapse of the

former Zaire into civil war. The arrests and expulsions of alleged British spies will play into the hands of noth French and British officials who suspect one another of plotting in Africa. But yesterday the two senior foreign officials vowed to bury

the rivalries of the past when they went on to visit Ivory "Britain and France have not always been the closest of partners in Africa," Mr Cook

told a meeting by a lagoon in the former French colony's main city. Ahidjan. "We need to be transparent with our friends in Africa." M Vedrine, like Mr Cook,

highlighted the history. "That this event takes place in Africa is symbolic," he said, adding that concepts of carving up the world and of zones of special influence had lingered longer in Africa than elsewhere.

"All that is now well and truly finished," he said.



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US 'sorry for death squads'

President apologises to Guatemala over American backing for murderous juntas, Ian Brodie reports

apologised for a dark and long-buried episode of America's foreign policy: its support for brutal right-wing govern-ments in Guatemala during a 36-year civil war in which

200,000 people died. Making an admission that many Guatemalans never thought they would hear. Mr Clinton declared: "For the United States, it is important 1 state clearly that support for military forces and intelligence units which engaged in violence and widespread repression was wrong and the United States must not repeat that mistake."

No President before has so directly admitted the US role in the atrocities. In Washington, newly declassified intelligence documents added vivid details of the massacres, kidnappings, torture and other horrors committed by Guatemalan security forces who were trained and equipped by the CIA and US Army.

A 1962 CIA cable described entire villages being burnt to the ground because the Guatemalan Army believed the Mayan Indian peasants supported left-wing guerrillas. The army can be expected to give no quarter to combatants and non-combatants alike," the cable said. Another document told how, in the 1980s, Guatemalan military intelligence agents dumped suspected guerrillas, dead or alive, out of aircraft into the sea. "In this way, they have been able to remove the majority of the evidence showing that prisoners were tortured and killed."

In a 1966 memo, a State Department security official said

house" inside the Guatemalan presidential palace where local security agents could meet their US contacts. The premises became headquarters for officers waging Guatemala's "dirty war".

Mr Clinton spoke to a crosssection of citizens at a "peace round table " in Guatemala City. One woman, Femina Lopez, told him how her hushand was kidnapped 17 years ago and to this day she does not know if he is alive or dead. "I am just one example of the thousands of women and chil-

⁶ Support for forces engaged in repression was wrong?

dren who became victims of

the war," she said.

Along with his message of contrition, Mr Clinton promharmony and reconciliation in Guatemala where the war end-ed in 1996 with United Nations help. He explained how US backing for right-wing governments and covert support for actions against left-wing insurgents throughout Central America - in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua - had created "bit-

LINKS eng.html — Guatamalan Human Rights http://www.lanez.com.et/enacl.htm ter divisions" within the United States. All the countries are now under democratic rule. For many years US administrations, Democratic and Re-publican, intervened at will in the region, a habit reinforced during the Cold War by the

threat of communism. In Guatemala in 1954, during the Eisenhower Administration, CIA support enabled a military junta to overthrow the left-wing regime.

From then on, the Americans sided with a military that became synonymous with repression and abuse. Last month a report from the Historical Clarification Commission, which grew out of the UN's role, found that the CIA and US Army advisers were pivotal to the state sponsored acts of genocide committed by the Guatemalan Army, mainly against the Mayans.

The report blamed the army for 93 per cent of all mass-acres, tortures, disappear-ances and killings during the war. Left-wing guerrillas were responsible for only 3 per cent

of atrocities, the report said. During an arrival ceremony at the palace, Mr Clinton praised Guatemala's efforts to move towards democracy and reconciliation and reaffirmed America's commitment to shed light on the dark events of the past so that they are never repeated.

His words were welcomed by government and opposition politicians, but they were not enough for some. Facing a line of riot police and troops with assault rifles outside the palace, several hundred students, trade unionists and other demonstrators burnt US flags and chanted: "Yankee, go home."



A protester holds the picture of a "disappeared" woman in Guatemala City yesterday

Reagan launched crusade to drive out communists

HEN President Reagan took office in January 1980, critics say US policy in Central America went haywire. Reversing several years of promoting peaceful reform, Ronald Reagan's Administration launched an ideologically driven crusade of anticommunist conflict that cost hun-dreds of thousands of lives and left

the region economically devastated. For most of this century the United States has aggressively protected its interests in Central America, viewed in Washington as its own backyard. In a region where democracy had not taken root, that usually meant But US policy shifted dramatically

Washington gave dictators arms to block

'domino effect', writes David Adams

with the fall of Anastasio Somoza. the Nicaraguan dictator. The ousting of Somoza by the Sandinista revolutionary army rocked the region and plunged Central America into the Cold War. Fears of a communist takeover prompted Mr Reagan to order the swift increase of military aid to the region, to counter Cuban and Soviet infloence.

But defending the region from the so-called "domino effect" of communist expansion meant arming rightwing military regimes in Guatema-

la. Honduras and El Salvador, Tragically, Washington failed to foresee or was willing to turn a blind eye to - the horror that would ensue.

Over the next decade the US pumped an estimated \$8 billion (£5 billion) to \$10 billion into the region. much of it spent on military equipment and training. lo El Salvador alone, the US spent \$1 million a day for most of the decade.

US aid only strengthened the hand of right-wing military leaders in the region, who engaged in a violent campaign to wipe out left-wing activists. The worst atrocities were in El Salvador and Guatemala where an estimated 300,000 people were killed and millions uprooted.

Meanwhile, the US was secretly arming and training the Contras, a Nicaraguan resistance army fight-ing to overthrow the Sandinistas.

llegations that US officials A covered up human rights abuses by their allies in the region have gained credence over the years as damaging documents have been unclassified. In some cases evideoce has emerged of involvement by US troops, and more particularly the CIA, in abuses.

Political decisions were made in Washington to hide the truth from an American public with little stomach for war after Vietnam. In Honduras, for example, US officials husbed up information about the murder of left-wing activists by the military. A recent article by the former US Ambassador to Honduras, Jack Binns, describes how he was instructed to discontinue reporting human rights violations in official channels".

Whitewater

697

Mr Birms and other academic experts now maintain that the Central American wars were not simply bru-tal, they were unnecessary. He be-beves diplomacy, not US support for armed conflict, could have brought peace more quickly to the region.



Anger at Kussian censorship move

Moscow: A censorship Bill aimed at stemming the tide of violence and pornography that has saturated Russian television channels in recent years is itself causing outrage (Anna Blundy writes). The Russian press has reacted furiously to the proposed censorship by the Communist-dominated lower house, the State Duma. Komsomolskaya Pravda's front page yesterday was devoted to a raunchily illustrated accusation that Communists are out to deprive the viewing public of Western erotica. President Yeltsin has promised to veto the Bill when it comes to him for signature. The Bill comes at a time when the stability of the Government depends on Communist support and the Communist Party is eager to flaunt its increasing influence.

Three die in avalanche

Rome: A German mother, 58, her daughter, 28, and a German man, 61, were killed in Italy's Alto Adige region when they were engulied by an avalanche that they set off themselves after venturing off piste (John Phillips writes). Police said their bodies were pushed some 9,000ft down the mountain by the wall of snow. The accident underlined official warnings that warmer temperatures after heavy snowfalls are making snow conditions treacherously unstable again in the Alps and Apennines.

Italy reviews bases

Rome: America and Italy are to set up a joint commission to re-view the rules governing US bases on Italian soil, following the tragedy a year ago in northern Italy when a low-flying jet on a Nato training flight from Aviano severed a cable car wire, sending 20 people plunging to their deaths (Richard Owen writes). The move follows a wave of anger in Italy over last week's acquittal by a US military court of the pilot.

Israel convicts ex-spy

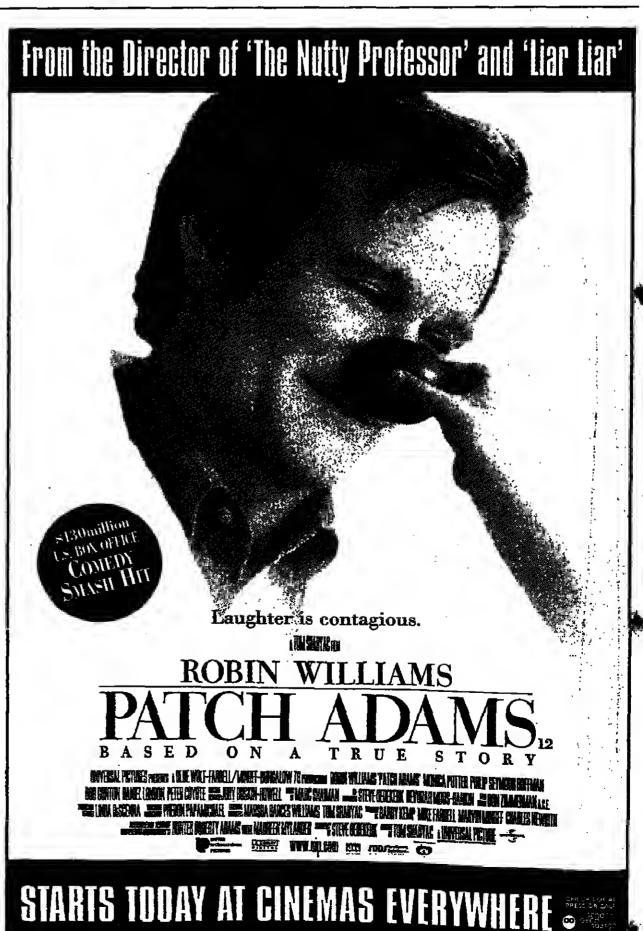
Tel Aviv: A court convicted yesterday a retired Mossad agent of fabricating intelligence that reportedly could have led to war with Syria almost two years ago. Details were not disclosed by the court but according to Israeli reports Yehuda Gil. 64, told his superiors that President Assad of Syria was planning a military strike to seize part of the Golan Heights captured by Israel in 1967. Gil. to be sentenced later, faces up to 15 years in jail. (AP)

Hong Kong critics fail

Hong Kong: A no-confidence motion against Elsie Lung. Justice Secretary, over her handling of issues linked to China, was rejected by the territory's legislature sparking new criticism from pro-democracy lawmakers. The challenge followed a decision last year not to prosecute Sally Aw. a pro-China publishing tycoon. in an alleged circulation fraud involving The Hong Kong Standard newspaper. (Reuters)

Church gunmen kills 4

Gonzales, Louisiana: A gunman burst into a church service and opened fire as he walked down the aisle, killing his wife, child and a member of the congregation and injuring four others, two critically. Shon Miller also fatally shot his mother-in-law at home before going to the New St John Fellowship Baptist Church, police chief Bill Landry Said. The gunnan fled but was wounded and caught in a shoot-out with police. (AP)



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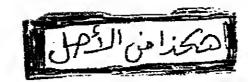
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Lake Branch

Paradise lost for shop-worn Valley Girls of LA

IN LOS ANGELES

THEY, like, hung oot. They talked in a strange and almost verbless vernacular. But most of all they shopped, turning conspicuous con-sumptioo into both an art form and their version of rebellion. They were the Valley Girls, and now they have

nowhere to go (like, totally).
With the closure this month of a giant shopping mall at the junction of two freeways in the San Fernando Valley, the curtain will fall on a none-too-glorious era in the social history of Los Angeles: one that cele-brated shoes, malls, make-up and dating to the exclusion of the wider world and, some say, reached its apotheosis in Monica Lewinsky.

Ground zero for the Valley Girls was the 900,000 sq ft Sherman Oaks Galleria, a monstrous mall made famous by Frank Zappa and his daughter. Moon Unit. As their 1982 hit single. Valley Girls, prodaimed: Like ohmigod! Like totally! Girls like the Galleria. And, like, all these. like, really great shoe stores."

In the same year, Amy Heckerling directed what became the seminal

cinematic study of Valley Girls, Fast Times at Ridgemont High. Shot largely in the Galleria, it featured a young Sean Penn as an urban surfdude bringing his vacuous beach drawl and surging libido into the mall-bound lives of two quintessential teenage airheads played by Jen-

niler Jason Leigh and Phoebe Cates. Now the Galleria is all but dead. Closed for repairs by the 1994 Northridge earthquake. it never truly recovered. Those shops still open around its cavernous four-level arrium are holding frantic liquidation sales and developers are planning to office complex. An eyesore by any standards, the Galleria has few mourners.

The typical former Valley Girl is loath to own up to her misspent teen years in its bowels, when she and her parents' eredit cards were symhols of the fragility of Reaganomics. As Kevin Starr, a prominent local historian, put it: "Right now, the Valley Girl is 35 and about to be a partner in a downtown law firm."

Promoters of Los Angeles have moved on, to the gleaming new Getty Centre, a crucible of high culsame freeway but facing south towards the Pacific and the booming west side. The Galleria, by contrast. stands in near-permanent smog in a neighboorhood best known for churning out soft-core pornography.

Pop culture has moved on, too. First, Aaron Spelling trained teenagers' gaze on Beverly Hills 90210, the most self-consciously sophisticated zipcode in the metropolis. Then Ms Lewinsky showed the world that as an alumnus of Beverly Hills High School she was not an airhead after all. At least, she tried to.

Clinton marriage 'under new strain'

refusing to leave the headlines and accusations about past infidelities continuing to surface, President Clinton's marriage was reported yesterday

to be under renewed strain. Mrs Clinton was quoted as saying: "I don't want to be in the same room as him, let alone the same bed." This was said to be the real reason why she had not joined her husband on his tour of Central America - not a bad back, as her office had explained.

Fox News, the American cable news channel, said its source was close to the Clintons and added that the chilly relations had also been the reason why the couple cut short a skiing trip to Utah earlier this

The couple stayed at the home of the film mogul Jerry Katzenberg with their daughDamian Whitworth in Washington hears reports of shouting matches and humiliation for Hillary

ter Chelsea, to celebrate her 19th birthday. But when she returned to Stanford University they decided to fly back to Washington rather than stay a planned extra day, moving so swiftly that a plane was not available to transport the trav-elling press contingent.

Mr Clinton said he wanted to go home early "so we can get a better night's sleep", and this was the line repeated by his spokesman, who said they had busy schedules.

Bul Marsha Berry, Mrs Clinton's spokeswoman, said that Mrs Clinton's back was to

Rita Cosby, of Fox News

said: The First Couple had a shouting match, which left Hillary Clinton storming out of the room saying she wanted

her bags."
The holiday came only days after a television interview with Juanita Broaddrick, an Arkansas woman who claimed tearfully that she was raped by Mr Clinton when he was attorney-general of the state 20 years ago.

Ms Cosby added: "A Clin-

ton family friend [says] that the First Couple barely speak in private, that 'they have nothing to talk about any more. The only thing they have in common is Chelsea."

ous breakdown," the source Drudge also wrote that a Secret Service agent who gave evidence about the Lewinsky affair before the grand jury, was considering leaving his job because of the hostility between the Clintons. "They may look like they are together, like a couple. They are not. It is all played for the cameras," said

New York within 48 hours of

the skiing trip, has had back

problems since last spring. Ms Berry said it was not appropri-ate to discuss the Clintons'

A report by Man Drudge,

the Internet gossip columnist.

claimed the couple were experi-menting with a "trial separa-

tion", which involved giving

each other as much room as

He quoted a "Hillary sup-porter" in the White House as

saying that the Broaddrick story had led to the new deteri-

can't keep doing this to her.

He promised her over and

over again that this rape story

was not going to amount to

anything. It has caused a seri-

"She was humiliated. He

oration in relations.

sleeping arrangements.

the agent.

A former Clinton adviser, who was said by Drudge still to be close to the couple, was quoted as saying: This is more than a fight, but they have gone through a separation like this before. They always come back to such other ways come back to each other . however, this time it looks



Showing the strain: President Clinton and Hillary, forced together at a recent dinner | | church with three relatives.

Family funeral for a folk hero

By Giles Whittell

JOE DIMAGGIO, revered as an icon of baseball but also of the art of being a celebrity, was buried yesterday in San Francisco, near his home town of Martinez. His estranged son was among the pallbearers at a funeral attended only by family members.

President Clinton. Tom Hanks and Jack Nicholson were reportedly among those who asked to attend but were turned down in accordance with DiMaggio's instructions. "Joe insisted that his funeral be a private religious service," his lawyer, Morris Engelberg, said before the event.

About 40 close friends and family members filed into the Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church in the city's Italian North Beach district, where DiMaggio grew up and married his first wife. Dorothy Arnold, in 1939. His coffin was decorated with white orchids matching lavish floral arrange-ments throughout the build-

ing, a spokeswoman said. Though he was married briefly to Marilyn Monroe. DiMaggio loathed Hollywood's personality cults and never publicly discussed his marriage after their divorce in

He had not seen his only child. Joe Jr., for two years, but left him a trust fund in his will to yield \$20,000 (£12,000) a year for life. The younger DiMaggio, who lives in a trailer and works in a junkyard, carried the coffin from the

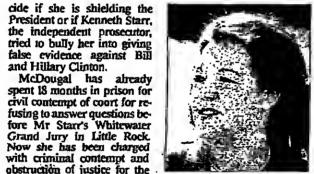
Whitewater figure back in court

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

ONE woman's stubbornness has prevented prosecutors finding out if President Clinton lied under oath about his business dealings, a jury was told in Little Rock, Arkansas. The claim was made at the

opening of the third trial in three years for Susan McDougal, 44, a pivotal but until now gely silent figure in the original Whitewater fiasco.

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Holding on to your Inner Babe

Mother's Day mean joining a queue of sticky-fingered chil-dren at the altar of our local church to be given, by the priest, a posy of primroses and early catkins so fragile that even though the sterns were wrapped in damp moss, the flow-ers had usually started to wilt before we could hand them over to our mothers.

A generation later the modern mother is unlikely to be impressed by the rustic simplicity of wild flowers and wet moss - at least if the big stores publicity is to be be-

There is a peculiar air of menace

it's payback time, says my copy of Selfridges' Yellow magazine. "Make her day", urged the posters in Marks & Spencer, Blimey, It makes you wonder

ers their copywriters can have had. It is possible that Germaine Greer - who goes to some length in her new book to remind us that, the advances of feminism notwithstand-ing, mothers remain slighted, exploited, insulted and undervalued - might find some attraction in this portrayal of menacing motherhood. But for some reason I find myself irritated by it both as a daughter and a mother. I don't care for notions of coercion and obligation where these relationships are concerned. If my son buys me a present for Mother's Day I would like it to be because he felt like it. not because he was nagged into it by retailers.

Suppose that I have been a good enough mother for my son to feel that I deserve a reward. What sort of thing might he buy me? There is a delicate psychology here, well

time your mother is a harridan whose conversation consists of the randomly repeated phrases "pick that up". "have you finished your homework?" and "what time do you call this?". You may be surprised to learn that she would not disagree. But she blames it on you. Before you came along she was a a string of admirers, none of whom ever heard her scream "get your feet off that sofa or I will kill you".

If you are clever you will buy her some little object which subtly suggests that her Inner Babe has not altogether vanished. The results in terms of amnesia about the nine o'clock relly watershed, a tempo-- militancy even - about the build-up to March 14. "Do not forget this date. It's Mother's Day and o'clock telly watershed, a temporary amnesty in her patrols of your sex life and so on - may be well worth-

CUTTING So, where to begin? Flowers and chocolates are best avoided. Unless they are exquisite JANE SHILLING (and therefore very expensive) or home-

produced, they reek of duty unwillingly done. But for a maximum budget of £20 you can buy the Old Thing real jewels. At Marks & Spencer an elegant necklace of black freshwater pearls on a silvery chain looks far more expensive than its price of £12.

Oasis has a range of sterling silver jewellery beautifully packaged in pale turquoise boxes. A silver sphere on a foxtail chain is £9.99. Black freshwater pearl drops on silver hoops are £6.99. A pair of tiny turquoise studs costs £4.99 and a mother-of-pearl inlaid dog tag on a chain is £14.99.

The Victorians, with their fondness for sentimental puns, would have thought Oasis's luscious purple-velvet pansy (Pensee) hair-clips, £4.99, a perfect Mother's Day present (a matching hairband is £3.99].

L'Occitane, too, is good on luxury at pocket-money prices. Generous



cubes of appropriately named Bonne Mere soap scented with lavender, verbena or wild rose are £2.45, small, £3.95 large. Eaux de Toilette in scents redolent of rural France — jasmine, honeysuckle, rosewood, vanilla - are £8.50 for an old-fashioned, gold-topped bottle, or £16.95 for a large atomiser. Tiny bottles of flower essences or handbag-sized tins of solid perfume beautifully at no extra cost. Muji is another pocket money

sized silver mesh vanity cases are E5.50 small, E6.50 large. A brushed-aluminium handbag mirror is £3.50 and matching atomiser £5.95. Pure silk body sponges and wash cloths are £4.95. And the most kitchen-shy of mothers would be pleased with Muji's elegant red lacquer chopsticks from £2.95 a thrush-egg blue porcelain bowls

and dishes, from £2.25.

treasure trove. A silver mesh pencil or make-up case is £2.95. Good-Buying make-up for other people is an enterprise full of pitfalls. But Warehouse has smart, clear-plastic pouches with four little bottles of nail varnish, or three lipsticks and a lip gloss, in subtle, pinkish colours, that would flatter any skin tone for £10 each.

Children with an affection for Pooh Bear may be captivated by La Senza's silk camisole and knicker sets, £20, in a heavenly hyacinth blue, printed with Pooh holding a bunch of flowers in his paw. In genseated reaction to Winnie the Pooh and his chums, but for some reason

I found these garments adorable. If you are not sure of your mother's reaction to this sort of camp whimsy, you would be on safer ground at Accessorize with a sapphire or cyclamen sari bag embroidered with gold thread and mirror fragments from £9.99; an intricate "pearl" choker, from £5.99; a pale blue beaded change purse, £6.99; or a matching pale blue glass bead

eral I share Dorothy Parker's nau-necklace, £3.99, and bracelet, £2.99. And if all this still seems too girly. the sophisticated child might try his mother with a handbag-sized. ring-binder notebook covered in an amazing material that reflects a riot of pink roses and jasmine from one angle, flipping to an ethereal blue background scattered with multicoloured butterflies. At £9.99 it may be a long way from primroses and damp moss, but it's not quite the raw cynicism of "payback

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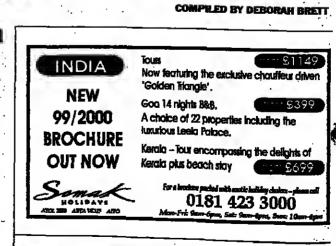
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known for brassy has a range of delicate faux antique earnings. This linen bangle

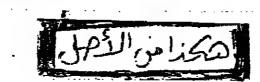
bag dangles elegantly from the wrist £35 from Whistles, 12-14 St Christopher's (0171-487 4484)



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Want a baby? Read this first

Model Betti Romani had romantic hopes of life after a baby. Just 19 months later, she and her partner are living apart. Sally Morris reports

year ago Betti Roma-ni, a striking Italian model, and her partner Sebastian Vince took part in a BBC documentary about first-time parents, in which their expectations of parenthood were contrasted with the reality of life in the first months after the birth of their daughter. Arianna. It was a salutary but some-

times funny story and, for those viewers with children, a reassuringly familiar one. A year later, however, things have changed dramati-

cally. Betti and Sebastian split up last September, a week before Arianna's first birthday. They got back together in November but are still liv-

Arianna ing apart. Betti, 27, lives showed up with 19-month-old Arianna in the couthe cracks ple's one-bedroom North London flat while Sebastian already lives in the West Midlands, running there' a specialist bread usiness. He sees Betti is a different woman

from the confused new mother interviewed last year. Although she still lacks selfconfidence, she also displays a new-found strength. In a follow-up documentary to be shown this Sunday, she admits that her romantic notion of motherhood and family life has been destroyed. "I had no idea how much

strain baving a baby can put on your relationship," she "Having Arianna showed up the cracks already there. I thought we would both put in the effort to change. Now I am more cynical." Although Sebastian's rea-

son for leaving his job as a copywriter and setting up his bread business in the West Midlands was purely a busi-ness one, the distance between them did not help.

"I would travel up to visit but he was tired and wanted to relax, and I was frustrated because I wanted us to do things as a family. Sebastian is very good with Arianna and loves her, but as a mother I think that you accept responsibility for your child and the sacrifices you have to make more quickly than men do. They want to hold on to their old

life. Of course I would like to go out and have a good time, but I don't want to come home to a babysitter when I've been

drinking, It's wrong."

As a childless couple, Betti and Sebastian mixed with models and advertising executives. Staying out late was the norm. Yet after Arianna's ar-rival their lives became polarised: Betti at home, Sebastian at work. She resented him continuing his social life; he resented the pressure on him.

"For the partner out at work, daytime life continues pretty much as before," says Betti. "It's the romance at home 'Having

that goes. I did try to look good and to be warm for Sebasnian - sex is very important to me mentally as well as physically - but you cannot forget that there is always a baby around. Arianna is still awake and playing in the evenings.
"Suddenly just weren't kissing

each other any more. When Sebastian came home from work late because he had been out with his friends, I would be upset and criticise him. Then he would feel even less like coming home early the next night.

When you are home alone with a baby, you don't feel you can compete with friends who are free to stay out when they like, and you feel you are being shut out. If you are insecure, this makes you worse.

"Even my close girlfriends who don't have children ring up to suggest that we go out, and say 'I'll see you in half an hour,' without realising how long it takes to get anywhere



"Having Arianna has made me stronger as a person. I have something to fight for. When I have low moments I look at her and I love her so much that it lifts me"

when you have to get a baby ready — and when you get there you can't relax because

the baby might cry."
When I visited Betti and Sebastian last year their flat

Teletubbies have replaced was full of works of art and Tarantino on the video. For those in barmony it is a scene symbolic of family bonding. For those with problems it is another example of how your

> was sudden, shocking and painful, says Betti. especially vulnerable when you have a small child," she says. "I was frightened by the idea of being a single mother - not because I thought that I couldn't rebuild my life, or that I'd never find another man, but because I felt sad that we had split up without considering the consequences properly.I couldn't contem-

weave across the floor, and

life is no longer your own.

The split with Sebastian

around for a meal and relax with him? Sebastian and I will always be tied together through Arianna. Once you have a child you can't just move on.

What Betti has experienced, as a result, is a fierce fight for survival that overrides any self-pity. A year ago she could not contemplate returning to work and was doubtful about

for Arianna. Now she is tak-

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the financial necessity of mod-'Now I run from college classes to castings for my agen-

cy because I need to work," she says. "Sebastian has always helped with money so I could afford childcare, but I need to earn my own money.

"I have a childminder three days a week but the rest of the time Arianna is with me. I

self — but she is becoming more emotionally self-suffiown, I am not frightened. I cient. Will that change their relationship when Sebastian returns to London in a few "Sometimes I think back to

"Having Arianna has made me stronger as a person. I have something to fight for. When I have low moments, I look at her and I love her so much that it lifts me. Getting back together is a gradual thing. I am looking forward to trying to make it work because I still love him — but having

months? She is unsure.

have got used to living alone with Arianna. I have confronted the fear and I didn't die.

Arianna's birth, which was traumatic at the time - but I long for the emotional feeling of giving birth to a child again.

It would be nice to have another baby one day, although it would be playing with fire to think about it now. But yes, I'd do it all again."

 Teething Problems, BBC2 Betti has no time left for her- been through this time on my Sunday, 10pm.



Always judge a cookbook by its novel ingredients

ing through a recipe book or two, can feel bold enough to experiment with ingredients themselves. And, if the mood grabs you, there's nothing to stop you visiting these peo-ple in hospital as they recuperate from their hunch that oysters and meringues would make a novel marriage in fact it proved so novel that even Mickey Rooney and Zsa Zsa Gabor, who have shown

time and again over the years that they will wed almost any-thing. would think twice before marrying these two items. As a result of this

difficulty in dreaming up fresh combinations of ingredients. you find that people who sit down to write a recipe book often end up not writing many of these recipes themselves. They just fill the pages with other people's recipes.

They can do this because recipes seem to exist in a copyright limbo whereby you can fatten up a book with other chefs' recipes, as in: "I always eat this dish at Harry's Bar when I'm in Venice, where Arrigo created the following wonderful recipe . . .

HOAA

This is why the only people still inventing recipes are manufacturers of manufacturers of tinned foods. They

think you're more likely to buy their tins if they print a handy recipe on the back of the can. This combines their product range in hitherto unimagined serving suggestions", such as "tomato soup with cling peaches, anchovies and sweetcorn niblets - an easily prepared meal that can be enjoyed by all the family, providing their senses have been dulled by long addiction to recreational

JOE JOSEPH

Writers, of course, are shy about plagiarising other people's recipes, believ-

tion is bow they earn their crust. Hence in The Hemingway Cookbook, which is being published to celebrate Hemingway's centenary, Ernest shares his personal he-man recipes for fillet of lion ('First obtain your lion. Skin him and remove the two strips of tenderloin from either side of the backbone. These sbould hang overnight in a tree out of reach of byenas", and for bear steaks (which Papa liked to eat on sourdough pancakes spread with

> But Hemingway is far from being the only great writer to have squandered Sunday afternoons in the kitchen, joggling hot saucepans to invent dishes that reflect his literary personality. Take Harold Pinter. He has published a collection of recipes

marmalade).

that are cooked wherever the literary intelligentsia meet to eat. The star is Harold's famous bologuese sauce Get some beef. Some pork, too. Mince them. Fine. Not too fine. You follow? Not too frigging fine. What good would that do? It would do oo good at all. Too fine, that would get us nowhere. Fry the meat

Then pause. You fried the onions? No? I didn't think I'd need to mention the frying of the onions. I thought, everyone knows about the frying of the frigging onions. Hey Frank, you know about the onions! [Frank nods. See. even Frank knows. But you, you're a non-starter.

"Why am I wasting my time teaching you anything? Briggs just woo't believe it when he finds out. I can only assume that you are a poof! Is that what you are? A poof are you? You make me sick." [Harold stomps out of the room and someone telephones for a curry.]

pe for pancakes: "Get some plain flour. Before measuring 80z into a mixing bowl, call Margaret and tell her how impressive she looked on News at Ten last night. On your way back to the kitchen. open the front door to a minion from Clarence House delivering a lunch invitation from the Queen Mother.

"As you scribble a reply, find yourself interrupted by a call from Henry [Kissinger seeking advice oo the best way to handle Kosovo. Tell him it's best served chilled, with blinis. Fetch eggs, milk and sugar, and tell cook to do the rest since you'll be too busy helping Tony and Gordon to run the country

Noel Coward - who liked his pan cakes "very, very flat, like Norfolk" published The Noel Coward Singing Cookbook to cheer everyone up after the war. It was here that Coward first unveiled his famous "Duck Casserole With Sage" ("Don't be too stingy with the sage, Mrs Worthington / Don't be too stingy with the sage! First you get a petite duckling; the best ones are from Brest! And the width of the pol, matters a lot, for your dish to be a success! Remove the guts, Mrs Worthington / Don't add nuts, Mrs Worthington/ For cooking times, please turn the page!").

any scholars now believe that it was a passion for cooking that cheezed up Dorothy Parker in her darker moments. It appears that Resumé, her famous poem on life and soicide ("Razors pain you; rivers are damp ..."), began life as the introduction to Parker's Party Food ("Kidney tastes vicious; I don't like clams! Lamb's delicious; but not with jams! Soak summer berries, in Earl Grey tea! Pour in some sherry: Bon appetit").

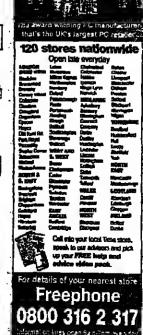
Of course, it doesn't always run as smoothly as hollandaise. For instance, Stephen King's Favourite Recipes ("Gigot d'agneau: buy a lamb from a nearby farm. Slaughter the lamb by chasing it around the house with a large chainsaw, to the accompaniment of loud, jangly music...") had to be withdrawn from bookshops after being panned: not by

literary critics, but by the US Food and Drug Administration.

King says the whole sorry episode still leaves a nasty taste in his mouth.



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Playgrounds for political correctness

Race zealots threaten our

children, says George Bridges

he dock is already crammed full of Britain's police. Now it is to be stuffed with teachers. According to Ofsted, the school inspectorate, teachers in "many schools" are guilty of institucional racism.

Bunkum. Ofsted's kangaroo court is guilty of a miscarriage of justice, the consequences of which could be more heinous than the supposed crime itself. Britain's education system is guilty of institutional incompetence not racism. More than in one in five adults, whetever their colour, can barely read a bus timetable. Instead of addressing this failure, we have become distracted by those who argue that just because a child is from a particular ethnic

group, he or she is more likely to join that one fifth of the aduli populadon. Such claims. based on a premise that colour and ability are linked, smack of racism themselves. They also ignore the facts. The performance of Indian, Chinese and other Asian pupils continues to outstrip those of white children.

So why the fuss? Those who have driven the debate do not want primarily to equip chil-dren for the world, but to change the world. The classroom, like the police canteen. has become a focus for poliocal struggle rather than better standards.

For the ideologues education, as the American Two plus academic two no Gottfried observed. now about longer "changing social structures and attialways tudes" . Sailing under the flag of raequals cial equality, with favourable four wind of the Macpherson inquiry be-

of political ideologues is approaching Britain's schools. You don't need to look in the crystal ball, just read their books. On the shelves of the Institute of Education, the academy of teaching practice. can be found one particularly revealing title. Education to-

wards Race Equality. lis author argues that if racism is seen as a set of prejudices held by a minority, this "denies the structural aspects of racism in the education system and in society". As a result, education needs to be 'not merely reformed, but transformed'. Quoting a colkague's work, teachers are told: "Education will have to be reconceptualised in the context of the culture and the social formation in which it takes place . . . People must use new ideas to change the mental outlook of the whole of society". Welcome to PC

world The logical consequence of reform is a change to the whole nadonal curriculum. Just such a demand was made by the authors of the Macpherson report. And it was not issued in a vacuum.

A programme for reform already exists in Ethnic Relations and Schooling. This includes the claim that the curriculum is guilty of reflect-ing "the ethos and culture of the white middle-class Anglo-Saxon. It excludes the significant input from so-called World countries". Worse, the curriculum has been "increasingly directed

towards the achievement of ideological ends".

If you're worried about the curriculum being bent for "ideological ends", you might well ask what it should be doing changing "the mental outlook of the whole of society". But those using race to transform our classrooms have a suitably revolutionary approach to English language. The PC grammar runs thus: I am modvated by compassion, you are motivaled by poliocs, and the curricu-lum is riddled with ideology.

So everything should be taught to let pupils "reflect cridcally about the muld-faceted causes of racism and about ethnic and cultural relationships". And they mean every thing. You might think maths teaching should be a valuefree zone. Two plus two makes four whatever colour you are. Wrong. By placing the empha-sis entirely upon "conceptual understanding. algorithmic performance and problemsolving" maths has become culturally cold, barren and dead". This approach "fails to convey the power of mathematics to reveal the inequalities. differences. discriminations and orders in society which

ought to be addressed", Labour's manifesto states that more than half of 11-yearolds do not reach expected standards in maths, and yet

addressing this failure is no longer the priority. Now two plus two equals an unfair division of resources between white and black. American classrooms are dripping with "ethnomathe-

maties", in which maths is taught with an Afrocentric bias. In Focus on Algebra: an Integrated Approach,
pupils are taught about linear
functions with reference to the
Dogon tribe in West Africa

which, the book claims, discovered that Jupiter has satellites, Saturn has rings and Sirius is orbited by an invisible star once every fifty years.
You might know that the Dogon, resourceful though they may have been, did not make these discoveries. You

may be thinking that this excursion into African history has next to nothing to do with linear functions. But that misses the point. Afrocentric education — as opposed to simply multicultural education aims to enthuse black pupils by wresting control of knowledge from the perceived "white elites". want teachers to enthuse

black pupils and parents.

But not by wresting control from anyone. Teachers serve all their pupils best by being allowed to decide what is right for their class, so long as pupils are taught to read, write and add up as early as possible. The curriculum was intended to educate the young better, not to balkanise them. The only tables that count are those that measure schools. not those which set ethnic groups against each other. If we forget that, our children will have every right to place us in the dock for preferring a bogus notion of equality to genuine opportunity.

george.bridges@the-times.co.



TELL A LIE ... IF I CAN READ MY OWN HANDWRITING, IT WAS THE SIXTEENTH

Unaccustomed as I am

good speech is a work of art. Earlier this week, a large party of friends gathered at the Chelsea home of the architect, Lord Rogers of Riverside, to salute John Diamond, the writer who is fighting throat cancer. Lord Rogers spoke. Then Mr Diamond spoke. Lord Rogers will not mind my saying that Mr Diamond made the better speech. Mr Diamond has no voice.

He spoke by means of words handwritten on an overhead projector. The words were not written in advance. They were articulated as Mr Diamond thought them, by hand, deftly and deliberately. Each sentence was short, and funny. As the script unfolded we gradually grew used to the rhythm of the pen as proxy for the voice. Each of Mr Diamond's words, of humour, poignancy and affection for his wife. Nigella, were given an extraordi-nary dignity by the act of being handwritten in our presence.

This was speech, not text. The writing was merely a medium linking one speaking brain and many listening ones. It was far more effective than any voice synthesiser. Mr Diamond wrote with pauses, rushes and other tricks of the calligrapher's art, drawing wit and feeling from the intimate act of handwriting. I felt I could hear Mr Diamond's voice in his pen. Over in seven minutes, it was one of the most moving short speeches I have heard. It was completely silent.

Rhetoric is now all but dead. Once upon a time it joined grammar and logic in the "trivium" of the medieval liberal arts. To command an audience by the power of speech was considered an accomplishment equal to the power of argument or the power of the pen. Now oratory is an old-fashioned word and rhetorical is a term of abuse. Few people distinguish between a speech and the reading of text. Few people can write text that reads well in public.

Even fewer can read it. Yet we have not stopped giving speeches. Speech-making is a raging epidemic, a plague enveloping the social and business life of the nation, impervious to the howls of audiences, the pleading of spouses and the clatter of the Internet. I must hear a dozen speeches each week, bombarding me from lunch and dinner, lecture, reception and presentation. Most are dreadful. The art of hospitality is booming, as is that of the conference. Professional cooks are hired, with the finest

Speech-making is a raging epidemic.

Yet the art of rhetoric is dead

wines, the best of settings, the most talented musicians. There is no shortage of visual aids, amplification and reproduction. No expense is spared. Professionalism is all. Then someone makes a speech.

Civilisation suddenly has to pretend that Demosthenes and Cicero never lived. In the Middle Ages, the speaker would have been trained. He would have studied rhetoric. He would have known that a speech is the "living sentence of a working

mind". In the 17th century, Samuel Butler derided the rhetorician as a namer of tools, who takes up lodgings in a "head that's to be unfurnished". But he believed in profession of the speech. The eminent Mr Pickwick knew rhetoric's first law, that speech is not spoken text, a law broken by almost every speaker today. Spontaneous oratory - the art of knowing what you

want to say but not how you intend to say ii - is almost confined to broadcasting Most speeches in my experience are read, in the words of the giver, because I can't do it any other way". In which case, don't speak. The implication is that the audience has come merely for the pleasure of gazing on the speaker's face, as he reads what it could read far faster

on its own. Read speeches are droned. They cannot respond to an audience, maintain eye contact and supply that lifeblood of rhetoric, which is the transmission of feeling. The business of oratory, said Hazlitt, is "not to inform but to rouse the mind . . . to add feeling to prejudice and action to feeling". Nor can written speeches rely on spontaneous humour. The written joke, dropped into a text as if in desperation, gives it not levity but lead. In his book on speech-making, John Cleese, illustrates this point by plonking a "light-bulb" joke every few paragraphs throughout the book. Humour should emerge from content. It is the speaker's call-sign to his audience, just as laughter is

message received". Worst of all, almost every speech goes on too long. The rarest sentence in the English language is. "Nice evening, but I thought the speeches were too short". The world cries out for more music, more food. more wine, more dancing, more quesdons even, but never longer speeches. Yet the same people who endure and deplore

long speeches, as soon as they are on their feet go on too long themselves. They go on too long at receptions, where the audience stands on one leg, bereft of a drink and praying torture satirised by Michael Frayn in Alarms and Excursions. They go on too long at dinners, when everyone

wants to go home. Worse, they add specches to charity galas, needlessly imperilling the gen-erosity of the donors. I once heard the violinist Isaac Stern give a sublime solo performance for a

interminable speech. Speaking for too long is a sign of nervous amateurism. Disraeli told his acolytes always to "leave the audience wondering why you had not gone on longer, rather than why you had not sat down sooner". The most famous speech in history, the Gettysburg Address, had just ten sentences and 272 words. Verbosity is the symptom of a muddled mind - poor Neil Kinnock was famously incapable of speaking briefly. Woodrow Wilson, when asked how long his speeches took to prepare, said a ten-minute speech took a day, a thirty-minute speech an hour, but an hour-long speech "I could start

charity, then ruin it with an

In my experience the best speak-ers, for all their other limitations, are politicians. They make so many and must listen to so many that even

the most inept get the hang. The only thing that wrecks a politician's speaking style is when an official prepares a text. He immediately collapses into reading, losing the essence of rhetoric, the illusion of a thought springing newly minted from the mind. I remember a speech by Tony Crosland as Education Minister. He arrived late at a dinner and looked down at what his department had prepared. He grimaced and threw it at the press desk.

"Report that," he barked, and gave a
brilliant off-the-cuff performance.

Every minister should copy.

The professionals of the conference haviness have developed tricks

ence business have developed tricks to make up for Britain's thetorical incompetence. They have videos, amplifiers, floppies and slides. They flash a speaker's "bullet points" behind his head, as if both he and his audience were intellectually. disabled. Listeners whose eyes must move back and forth from speaker to screen soon lose interest in both. It is as if a statistic is not accurate if not written down, an image not real delivered if merely spoken. Hazlitt

ince the urge to make a speech appears impervious to incompetence and shame, speaking must at least be taught. The flower of the medieval trivium must be revived. What was good for Aquinas must be good for the new congregations of Cyberia. Rhetoric should be in the national curriculum, taught from the cradle as the essential companion of that other neglected art, the writing of clear, brief English.

Children should be taught the lesson that John Diamond demonstrated this week, ironically through his silence. His lesson was that the spoken word is a glorious faculty, but that its glory does not ultimately rely on the voice, only on the rhetorical handling of words. So many speakers lay their words limp on the lectern or dinner table. stripped of any cadence or personality. Their speech moves only with the movement of the reading eye. Mr Diamond's handwritten rhetoric did all the things such speeches never do. It paused, scribbled, joked, hovered, caught the attention of those round him. It made us augh and cry. It was a speech in truth. Who needs a voice when he can make words sing?

comment@the-times.co.uk

substituting euros and cents for

pounds and pence in hundreds of

Charity clash

ANTHONY JULIUS has irritated Gordon Brown. The pet lawyer of the late Diana. Princess of Wales, rarely shows at meetings of the Diana Memorial Committee A senior bod there tells me-Julius is one of only three (the

others are Diana's sister, Sarah McConquodale, and her butler, Paul Burrell) who represent her interests. It's a shame he can't find time. He's cut down on legal work." So rarely does the would-be poet show up that the Treasury initially doubted if he was even a member. Had Julius applied his big-ish brain more, the committee might have had better luck with its £10 million memorial garden. But Julius puts in lots of work (unpaid) for the charity-helping Memorial Fund

 and some wonder if Brown's committee should now retire. HILLARY CLINTON is off to Morocco on her own, I hear. The First Lady is to escape from Bill at that wonderful palace, La Mamounia, in Marrakesh, where Churchill used to paint. The stunning gardens render, it a congenial refuge, despite frisky snake charmers. The manager has dashed back from London to haul

ZARA PHILLIPS (below). the 17-year-old possessor of the only pierced royal tongue, has saddled up with a dashing new friend:

up the Stars and Stripes.



21-year-old jump jockey Richard Johnson, (above) who is second in the country this season professional-ly and seems to be doing even better with delightful Zara. "Her Mum, Princess Anne, is a very good friend of the National Hunt trainer David Nicholson," I hear. "Richard is Nicholson's stable jockey. That's how he met Zara, lucky fellow."

WHAT colour pyjamas does William Hague wear? When asked, as politicos are these days, he blushed: "I don't wear anything in bed." Lucky Ffion.

WHEN Paddy goes to Heaven, angels will sing away his sexual guilt. Will I See You in Heaven?, Father Michael Seed's stirring collection about afterlife, includes a long submission from Ashdown and my man with the flagellation whip sees this as an apology for his 'pantsdown" slip. "It's very strong, full of contrition," says Seed. "The sense of guilt is very strong."

Paddy's office is insistent: "There is nothing in it about atonement. It is about spending time in Heaven with his family." Perhaps Paddy was inspired by the re-emergence of his ex-mistress. Tricia Howard, after he announced he was retiring: "No one has measured up to Paddy before or since," she pants.



HISTORY'S circle is turning on Merseyside: Derek Hatton's old Militant chums have been suspended by the national party for "not being Marxist enough".
The Trots say Liverpudlians are "moving too far to the Right".
Peter Taaffe, general secretary,
tells me they "are too optimistic about the prospects for world capitalism". Cheerful swine.

HEREDITARY peers are consulting lawyers to wangle redundancy when they receive P45s from the Lords. Insisting they have a contract until the next Parliament. a group led by Lord Palmer may call for pay-offs similar to those won by ex-Cabinet ministers.

Lord Allenby of Megiddo croaks: There are rumours stirring. We have given our lives to this job and it is being taken away." "Biscrits" -Palmer, scion of the lemon puff dynasty, adds: "It might be worth, taking this to the European Court".

JASPER GERARD

'Fifty grams of five-cent rice, Fifty grams of banoffee treacle, That's the way the euro goes, Pop goes the weasel'

he changeover plan for the euro should affect not merely the wide boys in yellow braces in the City, and manufacturers of slot-machines and insolent holes-in-the-wall that spit back plastic at us. The Government has allocated millions in order to prepare for this (hypotheócal, do not panie!) mon-

But it has not yet thought through the literary and linguistic consequences of getting rid of the pound. And it should, as a matter (as pontificators pomp it) of urgency. So who better than Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, to set up a quango, partly funded by National Lottery dosh, to prepare English language and literature for the monientous death of the pound sterling, avoirdupois and of other homonymous sorts?

Otherwise, schoolchildren a century from now may miss the

point of Shylock's pound of flesh, first taken literatim by him and then verbatim by Portia, trump-ing him. They will, no doubt, still find Shylock the giant character of that play, blotting out Antonio and those other Venetian yuppies as majestically as Macbeth and his Dragon Queen blot out the other assorted Scots in their play. (Methinks the Lady doth writhe and grope and calculate arithmeoc too much in her nightie in the current production in Shaftesbury Avenue.) To have Shylock insisting on his bond of 0.45359 kilograms of flesh will not fit into an iambic pentameter. So scholars must devise a version that preserves the measure without losing the metre.

Similarly urgent work is needed on other literary references to the pound which are about to become obsolete and unintelligible. I suppose that we could keep both currencies current by

to: "When I was one-and-twenty/ 1 heard a wise man say:/ Give crowns and pounds and guineas/ But not euros away." This may lose a romantic point. But it makes a new one, undreamt of by Housman: that

money can't buy you friends in the EU; it can only rent them. The enigmatic nursery rhyme can be rewritten without undue difficulty as, "Fifty grams of five-cent rice, Fifty grams of banoffee treacle. That's the way the euro goes. Pop goes the weasel." The references are said to be to a pub and music-hall in the City Road, to pawning a tailor's iron, and then to Another

Newspaper. Bosh. As so often in

children's rhymes, there are

permeated far more

than literature. It is the oldest prehistoric Germanic adop-tion from Latin, where it was a word for weight not cash. In the Dark Ages a pound or libra of Roman silver became a measure of

money as our pound. German pfund, and so on throughout Teutonic languages. It was made up of 100 starting coins or pennies, which had a star (steorra) in Old English embossed upon them.

The point of money is not in its possession or its name, but in its use. There is nothing sacrosanct about our naff pound coins. which slip so easily through the holes in the Puffa pocket to the

hints of an erotic dance.

But the pound has floor of George's car. The last beautiful coins that the Royal Mint struck were the Victorian guinea, with St George sataying the dragon on its reverse, behind the Queen Empress, Victoria's ship halfpenny, and the farthing with a robin on its back.

> Surely we can design more attractive euro coinage than our present tinkling symbols? But rewriting the lan-guage to replace pounds will be harder. "You don't get many of those to the pound" is an ancient sexist remark shared by males as a particularly well-developed pair of female breasts passes by. It has spread all over the English-speaking world without any evident process of communication. It is probably a sibling scribbling to Kilroy was 'ere,

We shall have task forces

which goes back to Marcus fuit

such tags as "It's a pound to a pinch of something unpleasant beginning with sh-", and the old Cockney jocularity, "Given away with a pound of tea", as in "Mum's hat looks as if it was given away with a pound of tea".

I know not what we can do about Ezra Pound, who failed to impress Gertrude Stein. She said he was a village explainer. Excellent if you were a village. But if you were not, not. Our euro conversion linguists will have to bear in mind that there are three separate homonyms in pound: an enclosure or pen, the unit of weight, and to pound or bruise, as with a pestle. They must ponder their imponderable and ponderous cognates, from pension to pond. And we must remember that pound or urine, money is of no use to man or

beast until we part with it.

III

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a Cabinet meeting on Wednesday when

Gerhard Shröder, the German Chancellor,

read the riot act to his Red-Green coalition.

singling out as a "strategic error" the

botched tax changes imposed by Red Oskar and his radical Green allies on

German business. The result was that

Lafontaine walked out. But it is a measure

of the reputation for indecision that the

Chancellor has deservedly acquired that it

was he, not Herr Lafontaine, whom the

Bonn rumour mongers had expected to fall

This is no mere quarrel between prime

minister and chancellor, of the kind

familiar in British politics. Herr Schröder

would never have had the chance to run for

the Chancellorship had Herr Lafontaine

not permitted it. The king has forced out the kingmaker; and it is still the kingmaker

who has the deeper claims on the loyalty of

German socialists. Did Herr Schröder do

the deed by mistake, as his "surprise"

would suggest? This would be a drama in

any political context. In modern Germany,

where political fratricide is unthinkable,

the consequences for the governing coali-

tion, and for the Chancellor himself, are

Herr Schröder now belatedly assumes

the seat at the head of the table which his

rival had, conspicuously, usurped; but

Herr Lafontaine, whose political ambitions

must be assumed to be undimmed, will be

the most unquiet ghost since Banquo.

Voters may see not strength in their Chancellor but further proof of weakness; for Herr Schröder would not have had to

get rid of his Finance Minister had he been

capable of controlling him. Unless he now

puts a firm stop to the bickering which has

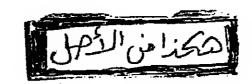
been his Government's most obvious

impossible to predict.

on his sword. The story is not over yet.

THE KINGMAKER'S HEAD

Lafontaine is gone, but unlikely to be a quiet ghost





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المنافعة الواجه والاستخرار



By all the yardsticks which this negotiation had to satisfy it falls well short. The deal will not solve the EU's immediate budgetary problems, let alone meet the challenges of EU enlargement. It will not help the farmers who most need support, or free those who are able to compete on open markets from the restrictive lunacies of price-fixing or production quotas. It in no way fits the EU, the world's second largest exporter and biggest importer of farm produce, for the next round of global trade negotiations. And rather than cut the cost of a system that already absorbs half of all spending by Brussels, as the last EU summit had instructed farm ministers to do, it adds a further £680 million to the £3.7 billion the Commission's original proposals would already have added to the

2000-06 CAP budget. The final decision on this deal, a crucial component of what is supposed to be a far-reaching overhaul of EU finances to make room for new members, rests with heads of government. There is a strong possibility that it will unravel well before the start of the EU summit on March 24. It deserves to do so, although there is no guarantee that further haggling will produce improvements. Presented with Commission proposals that were already well short of what is required for real

Yesterday Oskar Lafontaine stunned all characteristic and reveals clear ideas of his own about German policy — of which there has so far been precious little evidence — Germany by resigning as Finance Minister and leader of the Social Democrats. But the critical moment, it appears, was during this will look like the desperation of a drowning man. The timing, just before the critical EU summit this month, is so bad that there is no way that this can be presented as a premeditated decision.

Yet, provided that chaos has a time-limit and that the Chancellor is not such a fool as to seek honourable exile for Herr Lafontaine as the next President of the European Commission, this is good news for both Germany and Europe. First, it offers some hope of a saner German economic policy. However inchoate the Chancellor's "new middle" may be, it cannot but be an improvement on Herr Lafontaine's ruinous assault on the profitability of German business and his reckless backing for the unaffordable wage demands pressed by the country's powerful unions. The way could even be open to woo the small, liberal Free Democrat Party into the coalition, on a platform of structural reforms to taxes. pensions and rigid labour laws. All these things Germany desperately needs, if it is to act as a stimulus rather than a drag on Europe's prospects for growth.

Secondly, the European Central Bank should find it easier to cut interest rates. Herr Lafontaine's loud demands have made it difficult previously to do so without risk to its reputation for sound money.

Tony Blair should not, however, assume that Germany will now be a convert to his liberalising agenda for the EU. On tax harmonisation and other measures to stamp out what Germans call "social dumping" and economists call compara-tive advantage, Herr Lafontaine differs from his colleagues only in his readiness to be brutally frank. Herr Schröder is equally convinced that the euro must lead to political union. He just says so in a softer voice and with a more winning smile.

THE CAP STILL GROWS

A farm deal that makes mockery of reform

Any negotiation that ends just before dawn reform, the farm ministers have either tends to be hailed by the bleary negotiators postponed "difficult" decisions, such as as an historic breakthrough. Daylight abolishing the dairy quotas that artificially brings truth. So it is with the bargain prevent British farmers from meeting stitched up yesterday by European Union domestic demand, or taken decisions that agriculture ministers on "reforming" the are blatantly retrograde. A 30 per cent cut common agricultural policy. Its best claim in guaranteed beef payments, for example, was the absolute minimum required to to historic status is that, even by the low avoid a return to the beef mountains for standards of EU negotiation, it represents an unusually complete triumph of sectoral which the EU was notorious in the past. special pleading over economic realism Instead, it will be 20 per cent; and it is the same story with grains. Steeper cuts were,

and are, indispensable. Even more disappointing is the rejection of the few proposals which could be classed as structural reforms rather than mere tinkering. The first would have required national governments, rather than EU central funds, to bear part of the cost of compensating farmers for cuts in guaranteed prices. Only when taxpayers see that each failure to cut the costs of the CAP has a direct impact on spending on other national priorities will there be serious political pressure to change the system. This was stopped by France — proving that Germany will still, when it comes to the crunch, put the Franco-German marriage ahead of the common EU interest.

The second was the Commission's plan to concentrate direct financial assistance on poorer farmers, while setting a ceiling on compensation payments to those perfectly able to prosper without public subsidy. The ceiling was lofty: it would have scaled down payments after the first £70,000. This time, it was Britain which blocked the way. to protect its most efficient big farms some of which stand to receive a wholly indefensible £700.000 a year. Tony Blair claims to be dissatisfied with this miserable piece of cobbling. But a fresh start is impossible unless he admits Britain's share of the blame and alters course.

BATTLE OF THE DINNER PLATE

The Prince enjoys the hospitality of Uruguay

Putting his best foot forward, the Prince of Wales tangoed his way on to front pages all over the country yesterday. He could be forgiven for being a little less thrusting as he proceeds across the borders into Uruguay. British envoys have not always found there the hospitality they might have expected. Some of them still recall how Sir Geoffrey Jackson, the late British Ambassador in Montevideo, was captured by a guerrilla group, imprisoned in damp dungeons and had to pass several months in stoical isolation before persuading his

captors to set him free. These mere diplomatic infelicities may now be history. But the course of Latin American polítics flows, as ever, more swiftly than the smooth River Plate by which that great World War II naval battle was fought. After 11 years of ill-tempered military rule, Uruguay returned to civilian government in 1985. The current head of state, President Sanguinetti, presides over what is indeed a sanguine democracy. The days when this pocket-sized nation was known as the Switzerland of South America are long gone. But the quality of life in Uruguay is still far better than that of

most other countries in the continent. In the language of the native Charrua Indians. Uruguay means "river of the painted birds". Parakeets screech through

plantations, bright painted waterfowl paddle lagoons. These have become one of the tourist attractions of an unassuming nation which emerges from reticence once every four years when minds wander to the subject of past World Cup winners.

Uruguay gained the world championship twice, and though that was long ago in 1930 and 1950 - it remains remarkable that so small a nation should have raised such teams. Just three million people inhabit a country the size of England and Wales, with well over half of them in the slow, time-warped capital of Montevideo.

The only conflict, then, that Prince Charles is likely to face in this now peaceful and courteous country is the battle of the dinner plate. In the land where Fray Bentos is a town not a tin, where the cattle which graze the sprawling pastures outnumber the inhabitants three to one, meat is a mainstay. Steaks, each the size of a decent principality, are set sizzling on grills. A good local parrillada washed down with regional wine makes a feast fit for a monarch - and his retinue. As Prince Charles tucks in. a nation may take pride that this is not the first time it has served the British well. Some of his countrymen still think fondly of the tins of meat from Uniquay which fuelled the Allies through the century's hungriest years.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

social inequality

From Mr Dovid de Gale

Sir. There is an important distinction between "stealth taxes" and "tax increases" (Anatole Kaletsky's article, March II). The latter have to be paid; the former are, to some extent, voluntary. One can smoke or drink less, or not at all; a small car will make up for the higher cost of petrol.

"Modestly higher taxes" are needed, as Mr Kalestsky accepts, to rebalance national expenditure to the advantage of the young (education), the old (pensions/health) and small businesses. To achieve this, even on a partially voluntary basis, is a remarkable accomplishment.

those of us who reluctantly voted against the Conservative Government in the belief that a change was necessary to alleviate serious social im-

If Mr Hague takes note of this, then he may yet become Prime Minister. But, to judge by the uniform howls against the Chancellor by your correspondents today, he has a very hard

Dernford Barn, March II.

Sir, This society welcomes the Chancellor's decision to phase out mortgage interest tax relief, which has distorted the housing market and subsidised the better off. However, instead of funding a tax reduction, we believe the money saved should be used to prevent homelessness among low-income homeowners.

Unlike those who rent their home, homeowners on low incomes are ineligible for help until six to nine months after losing their job. As a result many experience arrears, repossession and

As a step towards helping the 30,000 families who face losing their homes this year. Miras savings should be recycled back into housing to help prevent homelessness, re-gardless of whether people rent or buy, through an integrated housing

Yours sincerely. ROBINA RAFFERTY, Director, CHAS, 209 Old Marylebone Road, NWI 5QT.

From Mr Les Holley

People such as myself on a low income will begin to feel that working is worthwhile at last.

L HOLLEY, 23a West Street Harrow on the Hill.

From Mr Mark McArthur-Christie

Yours faithfully, MARK MCARTHUR-CHRISTIE (Roads and traffic spokesman). The Association of Bridsh Drivers, PO Box 19608, London SE19 2ZW. March 10.

From Mr Gavin R. Dobson Sir, Why is it that perfectly legitimate

"taxed"?

Yours faithfully. GAVIN R. DOBSON, The Blair, Blairlogie, Stirlingshire FK9 5PX.

Hague's future

From Mr N. J. D. Baptiste

Sir, Tim Hames claims (article, Liberal Democrats breaking even.

Budget impact on America's use of its global power

role in internadonal affairs.

This Budget is a confirmation for

other disasters.

Yours etc. DAVID de GALE. Saxmundham, 1P17 2BQ

From the Director of the Catholic Housing Aid Society

homelessness.

Sir, I should like to congratulate the Chancellor on an excellent Budget.

Yours faithfully. Middlesex HAI 3ED.

Sir, Drivers will be much poorer after the Budget, with another 6 per cent hike in the price of fuel. Is this just the start of a Labour campaign to force them off the roads into poorly funded and inadequate pubbe transport? The freedoms brought by the car are increasingly being ignored and drivers made to feel guilty.

Car taxes should be ring-fenced and

spent on improving the road network. The Association of British Drivers is launching a campaign for fair taxation; isn't it time drivers were

activities are sanctimoniously tainted as "loopholes", that must then be "closed" after which they must he

I am getting uneasy about the enveloping mist of fiscal correctness coming from our controllers.

March II.

March 4) that it is likely that the biggest impact of this year's local authority elections will be on the standing of William Hague. The electorate, however, has already given its verdict: in 638 local council by-elections since the last general election the Conservatives had 80 net gains, Labour 68 net losses, with the

Yours faithfully, N. J. D. BAPTISTE, 22 The Orchard, Milford-on-Sea, Lymington, Hampshire SO41 OSR. March 4.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.#k

From Mr Mark R. Harrington

Sir. Libby Purves has written an informative article regarding the bana-na "crisis" (This harvest of greed", March 9: see also letters, March 5, 8 and 10). However, I believe her labeling of the United States of America as a "bully" ignores the reality of the United States' genuine

Allow me to state what I deduce is an extremely common viewpoint here across the pond. Beginning with the Marshall Plan, the people of the US have demonstrated for over 50 years their generosity and commitment to assisting peoples economically around the globe. Even during the most difficult economic spells the US has remained the world's largest donor of money to developing economies as well to the economies of those recovering from natural and

Is h wrong, therefore, to expect our largesse to be rewarded from time to time with more than a mere thank you? If we are to provide the cash — be it to Europe, the Middle East, Africa, or wherever - we will, and do, expect to have a voice in certain economic

decisions. Nations who do not wish to

see the US in this role should not accept any US dollars. We are all free to cut off our noses to spite our faces. Quite frankly, many Americans are fed up with receiving nothing but insults whenever our domestic economic interests conflict with our global

economic interests Respectfully, MARK R. HARRINGTON, 3443 Mohanna Street, Apartment 2204, Dallas, Texas 75209. mark8plus@aol.com March 10.

From Mr Christopher D. Kent Sir. Having read Libby Purves's article, I am ashamed, as an American, by my country's actions in the so-

called banana war. Now that the US is the world's only superpower, we are becoming increasingly crass, amoral and - 1m afraid - truly imperialistic.

accept a new bilateral aviation agree-

ment, which I believe is hopelessly

The UK Government is absolutely

right to resist US bullying tactics.

Whether it is also right not to react to

US discrimination against UK car-

riers is more of a moot point. UK civil

servants can use US airlines; the latter

can bid for Ministry of Defence travel contracts; US aircraft are extensively

leased to European companies. The

loss of income for UK airlines is

Perhaps it is time the Government

was more forceful regarding blatant discrimination against UK compa-nies. The US authorities might then

realise that they cannot preach the

benefits of free trade only when it suits

Yours sincerely, CHRISTOPHER D. KENT, PO Box 739. Westbrook, Connecticut 06498.

biased towards US airlines.

March 9.

considerable.

Trade disputes with US

From Mr Richard Branson

Sir. I have been following the dispute between the US and the EU about bananas with interest (letters, March 5, 8 and 10). I cannot help comparing the US Government's claim to moral high ground in this case with its apparent determination to maintain the moral low ground in aviation matters.

The US has a policy of discriminating against foreign airlines such as Virgin Atlantic in favour of its own carriers. The list includes the "fly America" policy, under which US civil servants or anyone with a US Government contract is forced to use US airlines; restrictions on leasing aircraft to US carriers; attempts to ban gambling on foreign aircraft in international airspace in contravention of international treaty.

This is against a background of repeated US protestations about the benefits of competition and criticisms of the UK for refusing to cave in and

Yours faithfully.
RICHARD BRANSON (Chairman), Virgin Atlantic Airways II Holland Park, WII 3TH. March 10.

hundred posters of Che Guevara. The

fracas over the Churches' much-publi-

cised poster (letters, January 11) has died down at the moment, but the con-

troversy will be forced on our notice

again if, despite an official complaint

ity, it goes up on hoardings and

Sir, I have always relished the story of

the 18th-century bishop in the Church

of Ireland who decided to look through the Creed he recited daily in

his chapel in order to determine how

much of it he actually believed in. He

was a rationalist, and ended up with

"I believe in . . . Pontius Pilate".

church noticeboards before Easter.

Foxton Lodge, Foxton Close, Oxford OX2 8LB.

From Mr Desmond Briggs

Yours faithfully.

JANET TODD.

March 6.

Pontius Pilate

From Mr P. M. Burrows

Sir. If Pontius Pilate was the harsh, illiberal ruler described by Jewish sources ("Pontius Pilate: the truth", Weekend, March 6; letters, March 10), why was he so fair-minded towards Jesus? The answer must be that after being led by the chief priests to expect a Che

Guevara he was nonplussed to find himself confronted with a Mahauma Gandhi. P. M. BURROWS (Author, Gospel of Doubt, 1998). 41 Harrison Close.

Reigaie, Surrey RH2 7HS.

From Mrs Janet Todd Sir. Though the truth is far from certain, Peter Stothard has given us a valuable insight into the background

of Christ's trial and crucifixion. I believe that his article, illustrated with Jörg Breu the Elder's brilliant painting, will do more to remind people to go to church this Easter than a

The Emir of Bahrain From Sir Roger Tomkys, Master of

Pembroke College, Cambridge Sir. May 1 add a footnote to your obituary of the Emir of Bahrain (March 8)?

You emphasised modern Bahrain's dependence upon Saudi Arabia and the United States. But today's Bahrain was built upon decades of co-operation with Britain which brought education, employment and prosperity to a tiny Emirate with very

limited oil or other resources. Sheikh Isa, like his father and grandfather, made the British welcome, and counted other expatriates by extension as inviting almost equal treatment. This friendship was not without cost: geography and history, with or without the causeway linking the two countries, made Bahrain dependent on Saudi Arabia: but in an

era of Moslem/Christian stress, Chris-Gainsborough portrait

Sir. I share the regret of other Marlburians at the reported plan of Marlborough College to sell Henry Hony's great gift of the Gainsborough portrait (details and photograph, March 8).

That I have any appreciacion of painting owes much to this picture. Your photograph cannot convey the overwhelming brightness and splen-dour of its impression on a schoolboy, nor the sense of being in the presence of a piece of work that is of the best in its field. That, I suggest, is worth just as much to the education of the next generadon as a swimming pool or

"arts centre".

Yours faithfully. DESMOND BRIGGS. Old Werretts, Castle Combe. Chippenham, Wiltshire SN14 7HH. tian worship in Bahrain remained

free and open with Sheikh Isa's

support and he sent packing, despite his country's vulnerability, any neigh-

bouring religious zealots who pressed him to follow the policies of the mainland. Sheikh Isa was instinctively supportive of Bridsh policies and a great admirer of the Royal Family. In

Bahrain's domestic affairs he was a gifted conciliator. The succession and country are in good hands, but Britain and the British people have lost an especially warm and sincere friend, and many of us feel deep personal sorrow at his

Yours faithfully. ROGER TOMKYS (Ambassador to Bahrain, 1981-84), Pembroke College, Cambridge CB2 1RF. master@pem.cam_ac.uk

March 8.

From Mr M. J. Michell

l also remember Henry Hony as a benefactor of great kindness to many boys as well as to the college. I believe

his gift was a very particular one, not intended to be convertible into alternative assets at will.

Yours faithfully. JOHN MICHELL (Marlborough College, 1956-60). 61 Sunderland Road, London SE23 2PS. March 8.

From Mrs Elisabeth J. Bartlett

Sir. I am concerned about the wider effect of Mariborough College's attempt to sell its Gainsborough.

Who will want to give donadons

like this to deserving institutions in future? What better way to make such donations simply stop? Yours faithfully.

ELISABETH BARTLETT,

119 Burbage Road, SE2I 7AF.

From the Chairman of The Moorland Association

to roam 'gamble'

Reality of right

Sir. So now we know. The moors along with other areas - are to be "opened up" (report and leading article, March 9). But what will the reality be? Interference with management: disturbance taking its toll on wildlife, with numbers diminishing: bureaucrats having a field day; law-yers prospering; the public confused; the countryside linered with direction

and temporary closure signs. The Government is taking a high-risk gamble with the future of our unique upland heritage. The pity is that it could all have been done peacefully and in a spirit of true

British compromise. For the last ten years, members of this Association have volunteered to establish a locally agreed system of access with sufficient paths and open areas throughout moorland in England and Wales.

complexity, uncertainty and potencial antagonism, coupled with an expensive administrative nightmare for Yours sincerely. A. MILBANK, Chairman,

Instead we now face a future full of

The Moorland Association. 16 Castle Park, Lancaster LAI IYG.

From Dr A. P. O'Connor Sir, My wife and I were amused to hear that a great breakthrough has been achieved in opening up the

countryside to ramblers. We have walked the Oxfordshire countryside for 15 years and have long noticed that the throngs of ramblers thin out 400 yards from any car park or road. Where are the rambling hordes waiting to fill the countryside?

Yours faithfully. A. P. O'CONNOR. 2 Castle End. Deddington, Oxfordshire OX15 OTE.

From Mr R. C. Millar

Sir. You report that the Country Land-owners Association believes the pro-posed legislation on right to roam has destroyed the goodwill of the countryside". What goodwill was that?

Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 8TH.

Regards,

R. C. MILLAR.

25 Boulters Court.

Seeing the light

From Professor R. A. Weale Sir, Your timely report (March 9) on research into the psychological benefits of working in natural as opposed to artificial light shows that there is

nothing new under the Sun. When, in the 1960s, consideration was being given to the construction of windowless commercial buildings, because windows were expensive given the building methods then prevalent, ambient artificial light also

It was thought that its uncomforta-

ble aspect was due less to its

received much attention.

artificiality than to its constancy. Artificial light began to be looked on as an amenity that could be variable, much as daylight. The hike in energy costs in the 1970s stopped all that.
It would seem that those concerned with the problems you mention might like to take a new look at varying in-ternal environments. Variable dim-

mers, controlled by random pro-

grams, might help to achieve an en-

vironment in which ome moves faster than it seems in steady illumination. Yours very truly, ROBERT WEALE. as from: The Athenaeum, Pall Mall, SWIY 5ER.

Women priests

From the Reverend John Papworth Sir. Why all this fuss about women priests (letters, March 4 and 9)? With the house on fire have people no other preoccupations than to worry about the gender of the fire brigade?

With respect, JOHN PAPWORTH (Editor). Fourth World Review. 24 Abercorn Place, NW8 9XP. March 9.

News at 6.30

From Mr Mycal Miller

Sir, ITN are to be congratulated for ringing in the changes, but it seems odd to have "bongs" on the half-hour. Has someone dropped a clanger?

Yours faithfully, MYCAL MILLER, 8 Homestead Park, NW2 6JB.

Increased incentive?

From Mr John O'Byrne

Sir. Would a National No Smoking Month offer more encouragement to those who want to give up the habit for good (report, March 11)?

Yours truly. JOHN O'BYRNE, 2 Mount Argus Court, Harold's Cross, Dublin 6W. March II.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE March II: The Hon Timothy Lewin was received by The Queen and delivered up the Insignia of the Order of the Garter worn by his father, the late Lord Lewin.

The following were received by The Queen as Her Majesty's Ambassa-dors: Mr John Maegregor (Warszw) and Mr William Erhman (Luxem-

Mrs Macgregor and Mrs Erhman were also received by The Queen. Dr Peter January was received in audience by The Queen upon his appointment as Her Majesty's Ambas-Miss Linda Duffield was received in

audience by The Queen upon her appointment as British High Commis-BUCKINGHAM PALACE

March II: The Duke of Edinburgh, Founder and Chairman of the International Trustees of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, this morning arrived at RAF Northoli from Belgium. Brigadier Miles Hunt-Davis was in

attendance.

His Royal Highness. Chancellor of
the University of Cambridge, later
chaired a Meeting of the Cambridge
European Trust at Buckingham Pal-

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and Trustee of The Duke of Edin-burgh's Award, this evening gave a Dinner for Charter Founder Members gham Palace.

ST JAMES'S PALACE March 11: The Prince of Wales this morning attended a ceremony at the Casa de Cultura, Buenos Aires, where he was presented with the keys to the city of Buenos Aires by the Mayor, Dr

Fernando de la Rus.

Afterwards, His Royal Highness
and Dr de la Rus visited the Villa
Lugano Housing Project in Buenos

Subsequently, The Prince of Wales pened the new headquarters building Metrogas. His Royal Highness later attended reception given by Her Majesty's mbassador, Mr William Marsden

and Mrs Marsden. His Royal Highness this afternoon departed by air for Uruguay.
The Prince of Wales baser arrived in

The Prince of Wales later arrived in the Oriental Republic of Uruguay and was received by the President of Uruguay. Dr Julio Sanguinetti.
His Royal Highness afterwards laid a wreath at the Artigas Monument.
The Prince of Wales later attended a

ceremony at Cabildo de Montevideo where he received the Keys of the City His Royal Highness this evening amended a dinner given in his honour by the President of Uruguay.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE March 11: The Prince Edward this afternoon arrived at London Heath-row Airport from British Columbia.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE March 11: The Princess Royal this morning departed Japan for the

Her Royal Highness this afternoon arrived in Mantia and was received by Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Philippines (Mr Alan Collins).

The Princess Royal later visited the British School in Manila.

Her Royal Highness was this evening entertained to dinner by The President of the Republic of the Philippines at Malacanang Palace. KENSINGTON PALACE March II: The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, Army Families Federation, this morning received Mrs Geoffrey Sheldon (Chairman) and Mrs Christo-

pher Bonney (Vice-Chairman).

Her Royal Highness, Parron, the
Bobath Centre (for Children with
Celebral Palsy), this afternoon visited
the Centre, 250 East End Road,

London W2.
The Duke and Duchess of Glouces-ter this evening attended the Council for Music in Hospitals Gala Concert at SI Johns Smith Square, London

ST JAMES'S PALACE
March II: The Duke of Kent, Trustee
of the National Science and Industry
Museum, this evening amended the
Science Museum Annual Dinner,
Exhibition Road, London SW7.

School news

Aiton College General Sir David Ramsbotham, GCB, CBE, HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, delivered the Alton College Foundation Lecture on Thurs-day, March II. Nicholas Walters

proposed the vote of thanks. Reigate Grammar School Reigate Grammar School announces the following awards for entry in September 1999:

presided; Grace Jowett introduced the speaker and Katherine Brown

10- and 11- Scholarships
Oxvid Armstrong-McKay, Reigate St
Mary's Preparatory School, Reigate, Peter
Arnold, Chinthural School, Tathworth: Olenkay Dean, Micklefield School, Reigate;
Urpinder Grewal, Doods Brow School,
Nutfield; Katherine; Hurrell, Rodehall Preparatory School, Reigate;
Very School, Malton-on-the-Hill;
Andrew Rivers, Wray
Common County Primary School,
Jake
Tavener, Felbridge County Primary School,
East Grinstead,
13- Schoolarship

13- Scholarship Peter Hurrell, Copthorne Preparatory School, Copthorne.

School, Countries
Music Scholarships
Amy Galluzzo, Dunottar School, Reigare,
Elizabeth Oliphant, Micklefield School,
Reigare, Vivienne Moss, Reigare Grammar

Dinners

Navy Board The American Ambassador and Lord Hurd of Westwell, CH, Chairman of British Invisibles, attended a Lent Term dinner given by the Navy Board last night at Admiralty House, Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff, presided. Science Museum

Professor Lord Winston, accompanied by Lady Winston, was the guest speaker at the Science Museum's annual dinner held yesterday at the Museum. Sir Peter Williams, chairman of the board of trustees, presided. Ye Olde Triponians of Hampton

in Arden The annual dinner of Ye Olde Triponians of Hampton in Arden will be held today at Fentham Hall. Ye Olde Mayor will preside. Service dinner

Air Marsbal T.I. Jenner, Chief of Staff and Deputy Commander-in-Chief, Strike Command, was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the Universities of Glasgow and Strathchyde Air Squadron held last night at Trades House, Glasgow.



TOMB reliefs from Saqqara, the necropolis of the Pharaohs' city of Memphis, above, and a cartonage mask, right, are among important antiquities handed back to Egypt by Scotland Yard yesterday. They had been smuggled out of the country by a restorer who disguised them as garish trinkets. The operation was organised by Jonathan Tokeley-Parry, who was jailed in 1997 for six years. Police were alerted after a British Museum expert recognised one item, which he knew should be in Egypt.

Royal engagements
The Queen will visit HM Customs
and Excise VAT Collection Centre

attending a thanksgiving service to

mark the anniversary.
The Duke of Edinburgh will visit Keymed (Medical and Industrial

Equipment) in Southend at 10.25; and as Chancellor of Cambridge

University, will attend a reception and dinner at Sidney Sussex

Mr George Robertson, Secretary

of State for Defence, was the host at a luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government yesterday at Admiralty House in honour of

Mr Pavol Kanis, Minister for Defence of the Slovak Republic.

Professor Graham Zellick, Vice-

Chancellor of London University, was the host at a luncheon held

yesterday at 52 Gordon Square in honour of Mr Peter Caruana, QC.

Royal Institute of International Affairs

Lord Carrington, KG, CH, Mr

Chief Minister of Gibraltar.

College, at 7.30.

Luncheons

HM Government

London University

Meeting

Calls to the Bar

Call Day: March II

Call Day: March II
Lincoln's Inn
T P Maxued, Leicester: S Dorarat, Singapore: LJ Harwood, Deriton, Manchester: A
M Shabjahan, London E2 Dr S J
Sevenson, London SW4: M R Gibbons,
London W14: Chong Shin Yih, Singapore: R
Selvanayagam, Sutton, Surrey: A C Bury,
Blackburn: P I Richardson, London W14: D
A Blythin, Corney, North Wales: H Rashid,
Radriffe, Manchester: R I Janses, Cheltenham: J B Corrish, Bromley, Kent: Q A
Hawkins, London NW1: F M Loy, London
SW7; Jereny Yinn Hain Choo. Singapore:
D A T Green, Quinton, Birmingham: B I
Torrens, Somerset Park, Co Londonderry:
M E Saunders, Alderley Edge, Cheshire: N
M Anthey, Witham. Essen: A D Adeoso,
London E1S: A Wong Kang Way, Johor,
Malaysia: R J T Crass, London SEX: A R
Chnwdhary, London E17: N D H Edwards,
West Didsbury, Manchester: E A Harwick,
London SWI; T Khan. Wrongshon, Wilshive: W J Hotseley, London N14: R 1
Walton, London W11: R Rajendra, Petaling,
Jaya. Selanger, Malaysia: C Blatonis,
London NW1: N S Marapona. Colombo.
Sri Lanka: S Palar, Kuala Lumpur,
Malaysia: S K Bhacha, Osarley, Mödleser: D J Wise, Fiste, Hampshire: P A
Howes, Eastbourne, East Sussex, A M
Quina, Jersey: R J Thompson, London Sex,
J Darwers, London SE3: M A Lloren,
Burlet, Virginia, USA: Z H Jafferji, West
Knighton, Leicestershire: S M A Rahaman,
London N22: A M Saul, Morley, Leeds: P C
R Wood, Harpenden, Heritorishire, a
former solicitor; M J G Graham. Tynemouth, Tyne: and Wear, a former chief
rown prosecutor. and excise VAT content of Centre in Southend at 10.25.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will visit South East Essex College, Southend at 11.20; Basildon District Council Offices, at 1.10, to mark the 50th anniversation of Parildon. at 1.0, to mark the Soul atmixets at 1.0, to mark the Soul atmixets of the foundation of Basikidon New Town; the Towngane Theatre in Basikidon Centre at 2.40; and the newly erected Bell Tower of St Martin's Church at 3.05 to open specially engraved doors before attending a thanksgiving service to

Inner Temple
P Tueje, London SEI3; B M Adamson,
London WCI; R P Holubowicz, London WC;
F Sayed, London NWi; J McDougall,
London NI; G A Green, Bostom, Linsolnshire; C A Pollard, London SWI7; A H Louis,
Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich; G R Bassable,
Bath; S J Shannon, London E3; M L Brewer,
Dunfermline, Fife; R Dulsy, Walsall, West
Midlands: T J C Grey, West Clandon,
Surrey; D E Grant, London SWB; D R
Sullivan, Hove, East Susser; J, A Danlels,
London WII; V Robertson, Hempanl,
Norwich; S D Darlington-Pearce, Bourne
End, Buckinghamsbire.

In a heaptifa.

In absentia M R Scepersad, London N18.

Emmerson Mnangagwa, Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamenary Affairs, Zimbabwe, Lord Owen, CH, and Brigadier Andrew Parker Middle Temple
C H Maclean, London SEIS: R M Rolls.
Bristol; F Zafar, Aberdere, Mid Glumorgan:
R W Houre, Banbury, Oxfordshire; R C
Kreisberger, North Wembley, Middleser, C
Christou, Easthourre, East Susser, T Platen, North Ferriby, Yorkshire; G A Stanley, Bowles were the principal speakers at a discussion of the Royal Institute of International Affairs held yesterday at Chatham House. Farnbam, Surrey; Seng Hong Yeo, Singa- of Antiquaries.

pore; J F Percival, Worrester Park, Surrey; J C Sloan, Croydon, Surrey; K C Fogarty, Barrister of Ireland, Dubfin: E I. Kurnner, London E2: M Hall, Manchester, M3; H F G Mount, London NWS: S J Criefisad, Chester: K Mölloy, London SWIS: L P Filgrim, London SWIS: A Sinha, London WCI; C S L Say, Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia: E J Messenger, Lowsonford, Warwickstrier, N A Throne, Haffeld, Herlardshire: D A C McDowell, London SWIS: H I. Whitehouse, Shifnal, Shropehire. L J Beck, Petis Wood, Kers: R Rubin Muhidem, Singapore, I W Carnochan, Billericay, Esseci E Christon, London NIS; H M Rough-Brooks, London NIS: B Shurdom, London NIS; H M Rough-Brooks, London NIS: B Shurdom, London NIS: A L Mallie, London SWIS: Chand, Blackburn, Lancashire: A J Pay, London Wc Professor L Lustgurter, Oxfort: L J Morgan, a former solicitor, Worsley, Manchester.

Manchester.

Gray's Imn
DE Wallace, London W2; G C W Spencer.
Grampound, Trura, Crxuwall: D M Robinson, Cirenosster, Glouostershire: G M
Ropers, St. Helens, Merseyside; N N Allen,
St James, Jamaics: E L Piedge, Beckenham,
Kent: J Mahalingam, Harrow on the Hill,
Middleser M-T Espindols, Baildon, Shipley, West Yorkshire; S Philip, Kesnon, Kent: J
R P Rogers, Sherborne, Dorset: E Ostura,
Cyprus; S N De Silva, London E9; A A
Suzin, London WC1: A Thomas, Limassol,
Cyprus; S N De Silva, London E9; A A
Suzin, London WC2: J R Crawford,
Sweybridge, Surrey: D W Gibson, Orsbort,
Surrey; S Ash, London SW4; S T Cairus,
London SEI: J N Sharpe, London ECE C
Bostock, London WC2: J R Crawford,
Cambridge: M Wyn Jones, a forner
solicitor, Ormskirk, Lancashire; G J Mancus, a South African practitioner, Sandriogham, Johannesburg: S E Weiner, a South
African practitioner. Sanonwold, JHB,
South Africa; R A K Goddard, a forner
solicitor, Presbury, Cheshire: D V Lewis,
Pontardawe, Swansea: S L Peters, Llanelli,
South Wales; M J Bradley, Grand Cayran,
Cayrann Islands, British West Indies,

Appointments

Sir John Soane's Museum Mr John Studzinski, Managing Director of Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, has been appointed a Life Trustee of Sir John Soane's Museum. Mr Richard MacCormac, CBE, RA, PPRIBA, and Mr Simon Jervis, PFSA, have been appointed designated Trustees, representing the Royal Academy and the Society

Birthdays today

Sir Annny Aciand, former diplomat. 69: Dr Giovanni Agnelli, honorary chairman, Flat Group, 78: Mr Ru-dolph Agnew, chairman, Lasmo, 65: Mr Edward Albee, dramatist, 71: Mr Mr Edward Albee, dramains, 71; Mr R.E. Alley, art historian, 73; Mrs Virginia Bottomley, MP, 51; Mr Norbert Brainin, concert violinist, 76; Sir Geoffrey de Bellaigue, Surveyor Emeritus of the Queen's Works of Art, Str Ceomey de Belangue, Surveyor Emerinus of the Queen's Works of Art, 68; Mr Willie Duggan, rugby player, 49; Mr John Gross, writer and editor. 64; Mr Peter Gwynn-Jones, Garter Principal King of Arms, 59; Lord Hogg of Cumbernauld, 61; Mr Philip Jones, former Principal, Trinity College of Music, 71; Mr Anish Kapoor, artist and sculptor, 45; Mr Anthony Loehnis, banker, 63; Mr David Mellor, QC, broadcaster and business adviser, 50; Mfss Liza Minnelli, actress and singer, 53; Mr David Milmaric, interior designer, 60; the Hon Roland Moyle, former MP, 71; Mr Patrick Procktor, painter, 63; Lord Rotherwick, 45; Mr James Taylor, singer, 51; Viscount Trenchard, 48; Mr Julian Treuherz, Keeper of Galleries for the National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside, 52; ums and Galleries on Merseyside, 52; Miss Elizabeth Vaughan, mezzo-so-prano, 62; Lord Wallace of Saltaire, 58: Mr Paul Way, golfer, 36: His Honour Sir Frank White, 72: Mr David O. Williams, trade unionist, 73: Mr David Wilmot, Chief Constable, Greater Manchester, 56; Miss Google Withers, actress, 82.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: John Aubrey, antiquary, Easton Pierse, Wiltshire, 1626; Tho-mas Arne, composer of Rule Britan-nia, London, 1710; Kemal Ataturk, 1st President of Turkey 1923-38, Salonika, 1881; Vaslav Nijinsky, ballet dancer and choreographer, Kiev, 1890; Jack Kerousc, novelist, Lonall Massachusette, 1923. Lowell, Massachusetts, 1922.

DEATHS: St Gregory, Pope 590-604. Rome, 604: Sun Yar-Sen, President of the Republic of China 1911-12, Peking, 1925; Anne Frank, diarist, Beisen concentration camp.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.J. Arkwright and Miss A. Robb and Miss A. Robb
The engagement is announced between Johnnic, eldest son of Mrs Arkwright and the late P.F. (Pup)
Arkwright, of Warwickshire, and Arabella, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Alistair Robb, of Somerset.

Mr J.J.C. Blok and Miss L.E. Clark The engagement is announced between Jeremy, son of Mr and Mrs Tony Blok, of Hookwood. Surrey, and Louise, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Clark, of Felden, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.

Mr J.R. Elliot and Miss C.S.J. Tarling The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Keith Elliot, of Ampleforth, North Yorkshire, and Camilla, daughter of Mr and Mrs Nikolas Tarling, of Chelsea, London, SW3.

Mr J.A.S. Everett and Miss J. Burgess The engagement is announced between James, only son of Mr and Mrs Richard Everen, of Downham Market, Norfolk, and Jayne, second daughter of Mr and Mrs John Burgess, of Torrevieja,

Mr D.McG. Gilbertson and Miss N.J. Smith The engagement is announced between Douglas, son of Mr and Mrs Alan Gilbertson, of Lingfield. Surrey, and Nicola, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Colin Smith, of Ford, Gloucestershire. Mr C.G.O. Keatinge

Mr C.G.O. Keatinge and Miss Y. Wake The engagement is announced between Colin, younger son of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs Hugh Keatinge, of Wilsford-cum-Lake, Wiltshire, and Yukie, younger-daughter of Mr and Mrs Kanji Wake, of Hiroshima, Japan.

Mr A.J. Napier and Miss Z.L.M. Punshou The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of Mr and Mrs Dennis Napier of Windsor, Berkshire, and Zoë, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Punshon, of Tilford, Surrey.

Mr K. Hare and Miss S. Chrysotomou and Miss S. Carysotomou
The engagement took place on
February 9, 1999, between Karl
Hare, of Fleet, Hampshire, and
Sophie Chrysotomou, of Cyprus. Mr C.H. Palmer and Countess Charlotte von der Schulenburg The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Palmer. 0! Whitchurch, Hampshire and Charlotte, daughter of Friz, Graf von der Schulenburg, of London. and Mrs Shiela Peczenik. of

London-Mr P.J. Pennal and Miss J.E. Kemp The engagement is announced between Patrick, middle son of Mr and Mrs C.F. Pennal, of Maidstone, and MIS C.F. remai, of Maidstone, Kent, and Julie, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs C.S. Kemp, of East Grinstead, Sussex.

Dr P.M. Ranstorp and Miss C.N. Baring
The engagement is announced between Magnus, son of Herr Per Ranstorp and Fru Ingrid Rudesjo. of Sweden, and Constance Nina. daughter of Colonel and Mrs Thomas Baring, of Westhay, Devon.

Mr M.B. Robinson and Miss S.R.L. Cowell The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr and hetween Michael, sold in January Mrs Timothy Robinson, of Boston and Maine. USA, and Sophia, daughter of Mr and Mrs Adrian Cowell, of Hatfield Peverel. Essex. Mr LF.C. Sinclair

and Miss A.R. Carison The engagement is announced between Lindsay, son of Mr and Mrs lain Sinclair, of North Mymms, Hertfordshire, and Amelia, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Jeremy Carlson, of Hackford, Norfolk.

Mr J.S. Titford and Ms H. Flockton and MS II. Processor The marriage will take place at Shirland Parish Church, near Alfreton, Derbyshire, on Sasurday, May I, between John Stuart, son of the late Mr and Mrs Sidney Titford of Woodside Park, North Finchley, and Heather, daughter of the late Mr Roy Flockton and of Mrs Flockton, of Borrowash, Derby.

Crufts Show results

Day I
Gundog group
Britany: SH CH Fascott Hautain, Mr and
Mrs P Green, Northampant
German wirehead pointer, Kinnmax Kool
Dode, Mr C Bonifiee, Bedington, Wirral
Irish red and white setter. SH CH
Drumgarron Levelled Crown of Castlefenny, Mrs E White, Wels, Somerset
Indian Spinone Kevardim Afrac, Miss P
Langsant, Sidmouth, Devon.
Retriever (curly coated): SH CH Gladrags
Jack. The Lad. Mr and Mrs N Titley,
Shrewbury, Shropshire.
Spaniel [Irish water): SH CH Zanfi Burning
Bridges 21 Foutby, Mrs A Williams,
Newcastle-updn-Tyne.
Hungarian with: SH CH Karval Keats, Mr
Marmstrong, Cartisle, Cumbria
Retriever (Chesapeake Bay): Arms; Bay
Jessam, Mrs C Mayhew, Midturst, West
Sussee.
Spaniel [American recent SH CH Karolera

Jessam, Mrs C Mayhew, Midhurat, West Susser.
Spaniel (American eoclest) SH CH Kaplars Krhise Cheice II of Cosaha, Mrs L Swigniski, Wellinhorough, Norrhants.
Spaniel (field): SH CH Nadavin Elegance, Mr and Mrs C Hobyase, Colne Lanes.
Weimaraner: SH CH Ansona Perdy, Mr G Haran, Lanarkshire.
English settert Lindow Vision of Wonder, Mrs J Barber, Redditch, Worvestershire. German short-brined pointer: SH CH Barleyarch Fiocadilly, Mrs S Harris, Wartington, Cheshire.

Verese, Mrs G Pearson, Bishop Auckland, County Dorkers.
Large Monsterbander: CH Gristbeck, Holcus, Mrs Harpraves, Preson, Lancs, Spaniel jehunbert: SH CH Trasofield To Hot To Handle, Mr & Mrs T Field, Norwich, Norfolk, Spaniel jockert Glenhrows Raincloud, Mr Harrison, Derby, Spaniel (Sussest): SH CH Patchingall Clarissa, Chekosford Mrs C Mitchell, Chekosford, Esser, Retriever (flat-coated): Spera Sapphire Vivace, Mrs S De Robbio, Dumblane, Perthesting.

stare. Retriever (solden) Lindjan Rhyane or Rea-son, Mr J Buckingham, Dawiish, Evener, Retriever Babradon) SH CH Carramer Carmen Minanda, Mr & Mrs M Reynolds, Nontingham. Spaniel (English springer): SH CH Elimwek Earthbound, Mr J Davidson, Kirkealdy, File.

Fife.
Spaniel (Welsh springer; SH CH Northey, Saver Cameo from Zambertan, Mrs J Hopkins, Bury St Edmands, Suffolk, Gordon setter: Floroto Am Grantach, Mr & Mrs J Hill, Eastbothiam, Irish sener: SH CH Caspians Intrepad, Mrs J Lorrimer, Bingley, West Yorkshire.
Pointer: SH CH Adstock Jacobne, Mrs K MacChangl, North North.

Further results from Crufts will appear in The Times on Hungarian wire-haired vida: Lanspar Veros Monday

BMDS: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

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Do not plot barm against your neighbour, who lives trustfully near you. Proverbs 3.29 (NIV).

BIRTHS BLAIR - On 9th March to Catherine (née Flyde) and Andrew, a beautiful daughter, Anna Caitlin, a sister lor Ellie.

BRUMETTE - On March 6th at The Portland Hospital, to Debbie and Ian, a daeghter, Nicole Jennifer, GAZE - On 5th March at Royal Hampshire Hospital, Winchester to Letty (née Azia) and Christian, a daughter, Angusta, a sister for Milo and Caspar.

GREALLY - On March 8th at The Royal Free Hospital, to Susan (née Fitxpetrick) and Barry, a son, Hugo Christopher Horace, a brother for Dliver and Tadde

HANSLEY - On March 10th 1999 in Manchester, to David and Deborah (nee Chaisty), a son, Matthew Chaisty), a son, Matthew James. Grandchild for Maria and Brian of Urnston and Margaret and Jack of Saxilby. Cousin for Harvey, Theo and William.

HARRISON DALY On
Thursday February 11th at
7.05pm to Brenda (née
Daly) and Mark, a son,
Matthew Thomas,
Welcome to the world. MACKENZE - laie and Linnie are delighted to announce the hirth of th

announce the hirth daughter Amy Made MORRIS - On 8th March in Caroline (note London, to Caroline (née Sykes) and James, a son, Toby Alun Ben, a brother for Max and Oliver.

PEMBERTON-PIGOTT - On March 7th 1999 at The

REID - On Monday, March 8th, to Elizabeth Ince Bathurst) and Simon, a on, George, a brother for

PRICE - On March 8th at The Portland Hospital, to Derica and Robin, twin boys, Isaiah and Malachi, brothers for Solomon. RIVETT-CARNAC - On March 6th to Sarah (née Petrie) and Simon, a son, Geordie James Ian, a brother for

SEFCHICK - On March 7th at The Portland Hospital, to Shawn and Michael, a daughter, Madeline Grace.

DEATHS

ADAMSON - Durham, formerly of Bow School. Peacefully in hospital on 11th March aged 87 years, Mary, widow of the late Charlie Adamson. Funeral at St Oswald's Church, Durham, 12.30 pm Thursday 18th March.

BADDELEY - Alian Beresford, on March 10th 1999 in his 90th year, pescefully at home. Beloved bushand of Rousen and father of Rozanne, Paul and John. Family flowers only. Donations to The Red Cross. Enquiries, E White & Son 01823 272183.

Newquay.

SRADBURY - Catherine, née Kenfe. Suddenly in Cheimsford, Essex. Beloved wife to the late Jim Bradbury and stepmother to Peter. Adored granny to Chlos and Sophia. Requiem Mess at the Church of the Sacrad Heart, Cobham, Surrey et 11.00sm Friday 19th March fellowed by private interment at Cobham Cemetery. Family flowers only please.

& Son 01823 272183.

BARLEY - David, Naval
Architect (NPL & BMT),
lifelong Pertsmeeth F.C.
and Hampshire C.C.
supporter, peacefully at
Weybridge Hospital on 8th
March 1999. Gorgeous old
chap, much loved and
missed by his wife Audrey,
daughters Ruth and
Imogeo, sister Eva, Irlends
and extended family,
Funeral at 3.00pm on
Friday 19th March 1999 at
St Mary's Church, Waltonen-Thames, Family
flowers only, Donations, if
desired, to nominated
family charities e/e FW
Chitty, 26 Brassey House,
New Zealand Avenue,
Walton-on-Thames,
Surrey KT12 10D.
Enquiries 01932 254255.

BATES - J.H. (Joe), Beloved

Enquiries 01932 25-255.

BATES - J.H. (Joe). Beloved husband of Nancy and loving uncle and greatuncle, ee 9th March peacafully at Trewision Lodge. Trebetherick, aged 88. Service of Thankagiving Friday 19th March, 5t Minver Pariah Church 2-30 pm. Family flowers only and on letters please. Donations if desired to 5t Francis Home for Animals, Porth, Newquay.

BELL - Geoffrey Laurence dled peacefully on February 26th 1999 at Our Lady's Hospica, Dublin, aged 83. Enquiries phone 01865 373689. Donations to Cancer Research.

BUTCHART - Michael Denholm Leonard aged 59 peacefully on March 11th 1999. Beloved bushand of Jenny, much loved father of Andrew, Charlotte and Leyes, say of See and James, son of Joan and brother of Virginia. Funeral at St Mary's and St Nicholas, Leatherhea

St Nicholas, Leatherhead, Surrey at 3 pm on March 18th. Family flowers only please bet donations if desired to Royal Marsden Hospital, Sutton. Enquiries to Hawkins & Sons (01372) 372435. Sons (ULS'21 3/2-asa. CROSS - Nests Rosamund (formerly Bromley-Martin, nee Bevanl, aged 87, peacefully on March 6th. Beloved wife of the late Graham, much loved mother of Christopher, Josma and the late Sally and stem-me

Josums and the late Sally and step-mother of Roger, Trevor and the late Nell, devoted grandmother and great-grandmother. Family burial. Requiem Mass at 2.00pen on Tuesday March 16th at St Joseph's Catholic Church, Blahops Stortford, Family flowers only, but donations if desired to Chechire Homes, c/o Gordon Barber Funeral Home, 317 Aytsham Road, Norwich NR3 2AB. ELVERSON - Robin, on March 7th in Houston, Texas.

EXPENSION - Robin, on March
Thin Houston, Texas.
GARLAND - Sidney Leonard
Gattrall MC: on 8th March
at home in Guildford,
suddenly, aged 83. Beloved
bushand of Jean,
Grenpops' will be sorely
missed by seventeen
grandchildren and all his
extended family. Quiet
family cremation. A
Thankegiving Service will
be held at Holy Trinity
Church, Guildford, on
Sunday April 11th at 2pm
to which friends are
warmly welcome. Family
flowers only. Donations if
preferred to National
Advertising Benevolent
Society, 32 Wigmore
Street, London With 9DF.
GEDDES - Constance Mary

Street, London WIH 9DF.
GEDDES - Constance Mary
(Kit), on 10th March 1999,
suddenly but peecefully at
St Coorge's Hospital,
Tooting, following a road
accident, widow of Lt. Col.
James Geddes R.A. and
mother of Gendon James Geddes R.A. and mother of Gordon.
Andrew, and Bruce.
Requiem at St Thomas
Aquinas Church, Ham
Common, 11.30, followed by cremation at Mortlake
Crematerium, 13.00. on
Tuesday 18th March.
Family flowers only, donations if wished to
Princess Alice Hospice,
Westend Lane, Esher,
Sarraw.

GLANVALE - Maynooth, Eire. March 3rd 1999, Michael Paul, Surg Cdr RN (rtd). Busband of Patricla and father of Teress.

GOLD - Eileen (née Mitcheil)
SRN CMB OND died on
11th March. Beloved wile
of Eddie and wonderful
mother of Neil. Funeral
Service at the Church of St
Peter and St Paul, Westonin-Gordano, Somerset on
Thursday, 18th March at
2 pm. Flowers if wished to
F.H. Halliday & Son, 115
High Street, Portishead.

GRIFFITHS - Joseph Reginald. Reg Griffiths, dearly loved by all his family and friends, died at 8.50 am in Falkirk Royal 8.50 am in Falkirk Royal infirmary on 6th March 1999 aged 84 years. He had suffered a strong dignified light to regain his health before suffering a final sethack. Beloved husband to Agnes, much loved father to Anne and Roger and caring grandiather to Sophie and Lucy. He was a warm, kind, joyous man who will be dearly missed. His funeral tonk place a warm, kind, joyous man who will be dearly missed. His funeral tonk place at Yallisllan and Kincardine Parish Church and thereafter at Falkirk Crematorium.

> HENDRIE - On March 8th peacefully in his sleep lames Ian, beloved husband of Doris, devo instruction of Doris, devotes father to Meriel and Paul and a much loved grandfather to Lucy and Barney. Funeral at Randalla Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, Wednesday Lentherpeed, Wednesday March 17th at 3 pm. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to Parkinson's Disease Society c/o F.W. Paine. 108 High Street, Esher, Surrey KT10 9QJ.

HERINGTON - Jessica
Margaret on March 9th,
widow of Sydney,
peacefully at home.
Funeral or Letheringsett
Church March 18th at
2.30pm. Enquiries to Peter
Taylor Funeral Service,
Holt, Norfolk, Tel: (01363)
711992.

JONES - Donaid George died suddenly but pescefully et Ashford Hospital Middlesez, or Sunday 7th March 1999 sged 68 years. Dearly loved husband of Libby and loving father of Karen, Alison and Lucy. Dear brother of Jean and Pamela. A much loved grandfather and uncle. Chairman of D.G. Jones and Partnera. Sadly missed by family, friends and colleagues. Memorial service at York House, Twickenham on Thursday 18th March at 4 pm. All welcome. Flowers and enquiries to F.W. Paine. Twickenham, tel: 0181 892 1784.

LARD - Peacefully on 11th March 1999 at the Western General Hospital, Edinburgh, after a long struggle against illness, Michael Donald Laird O.B.E. A much loved man, dear brother; husband and father; prond grandfather of Freys, Hector, Tam and Mattide. Funeral at Mortonball Crematorium, Edinburgh, Main Chapel on Thursday 18th March at 11.00 am at which all friends are welcome. A friends are welcome. A book of condolence will be available, oo cards or available, oo cards or latters please. Any donations would be welcomed by the Disbetic Research Fund at Western General Hospital, Crawe Road South, Edinburgh.

LEGGATE - James R. DSO of Burton-in-Wirral, Cheshire, 10th March 1999, aged 85 years. Much loved husband of Jean and loving father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Service and interment at St Nicholas' Church, Burton-in-Wirral on Wednesday 17th March at 12 noon, Family flowers Wednesday 17th March at 12 noon. Family flowers only please, but donations in Hen may be sent for The Stroke Association (Preuton) c/o Charles Stephens Funeral Directors, Clifton House, 215 Bebingtoe Road, Rock Ferry, Wirel 14 34 34 34 35 215 Bebingtoe Road, Rock Ferry, Wirral L42 4QA, Tel 0151 645 4396.

LOCKYER - Francis Harding peacefully at home on 8th March, aged 88. Belovad husband of Hermione and fether of Barnaby, Jotyon and Romilly. Thankspiving service at noon Thursday 18th March, St. Laurence Church, Seale, If wished denations to The National Kidney Research Fund, Huntingdon. Enquiries to 01252 711444.

MACLEOD - Margaret of
Hopping Lane,
Canombury, peacefully on
5th March aged 93. Only
daughter of the late Sir
Norman and Lady
Macleod and dear aunt of
Brigid and great-aunt of
Brooke. Funeral Tuesday
16th March, Golders Green
Eset Chapel, Hoop Lane,
NW11 at 3.15 pm.
Enquiries to William
Beckett Funeral Directors
of 29 Junctice Road, N19,

tel: (0171) 272-4114. MONCKTON - Anthony Neison, pessed sway in Neison, pessed sway in Kato Paphos, Cyprus, on Tuesday March 9th. Burial will take place at Dekelle British Milltary Cametery on Tuesday March 16th. A Memorial Service in England will be

ed at a later date. NICKSON - John, on 10th NECKSON - John, on 10th
March, peacefully at
Chipping Norton. Devoted
husband of the late Pam,
loving father of Simon,
Jeremy and Ceci, and
adored grandfather.
Wonderfully cared for at
Southerndown Nursing
Home. Funeral service to
be held at St Nicholas,
Chadlington, Oxfordshire
at 11.30 am on Saturday
20th March, Pamily
flowers only but donations
to The Injured Jockeys'
Fund c/e Didock Funeral
Service, Cemetary Lodge,
Chipping Norton, Oxon
OX7 5XS.

PEACOCK - Frederick George
Pat" on 9th March
peacafully at St Thomas'
Hospital, aged 38 years.
Beloved busband of the
late Evelyn. Formerly
Deputy Chairman of the
Carton Club, a Past
Master of the Worshipful
Company of Fietchers and
a former Justice of the
Peace. Funeral Service at
2.30pm on Monday 22nd
March at the South
London Crematorium,
Rowan Road, London
SW16. No flowers piesse,
but if desired, donations to
Louksemis Research
Fund, 43 Great Ormond Fund, 43 Greet Ormand Street, London WCIN 3.U.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

RicHARDS - Suddenly on 8th March 1999, of Dolgellau, Gwynedd, aged 78 years. Lt Cdr R.N. (Retired) VL JP. Richard Meredyth (Nick), beloved husband of Pameia, a dear father and grandfather. Funeral service for family and the local community only ot St Mark's Church, Brithdir on Monday, 15th March at 2.30pm. Ne flowers. Donatious in lieu gratefully received

gratefully received towards the R.N.L.I. (Local Branch) c/o Glyn Rees & Son, Funeral Mewddwy, Machynlleth, Powys, S'229 JD. Tel: 01650 531240 or Dolgellae Tel: 01341 422322.

ROBERTSON - James
Simpson of Clanfield,
Oxon on March 10th 1999.
Husband of Mangery,
father of Liz, John and
Kath. Funeral service at
Oxford Crematorium on
Thursday 18th March at 12
noon. Ne flowers.
Doustions for the Pain
Relief Clinic at the
Churchili Hospital, c/o E
Taylor & Son. 21 Corbett
Road, Carterton, Oxon
OXIB JLG.

StepPARD - Monique
Holene, died pencefully at
Trinity Hospice March 7th
1999; much leved wife of
Wing Commander R.F.
Sheppard, beloved mother
of Patrica, Francesca and
John, mother-in-law of
Jerry and David and meme
ef Dominique, Danielle,
John, Jason, Michael and
Hazel, Creamed in
privata, Donations if
desired to Trinity Hospice,
London SW4 ORN.

SHERIFFE - Peacefully at her home in Leicestershire on March 11th 1999 Monica aged 95 years. A much loved and respected friend. Cremation private. Memorial Service will be held at Goadby Marwood Church on Tuesday 16th March at Noon. Donations to her memory for The to her memory for The Injured Jockeys Fund.

SHEEDS - Lorna (née SMEINS - LOTTA (nee Mangatroyd) on March 10th peacefully at Dorkin aged 85. Wife of the late Major General Romie Shields and dear mother of Robert and Jane.

TARKOWSKI - Janek TARKOWSM - Janek
Wojcolech passed away
peacefully at home on
March 5th 1999 aged 58
after a bravely fought
illness. He will be sadly
missed by his loving wife
Linds, devoted sone Jan 16
and Marek 14, family and
many friends. The funeral
service will take place at
Broupton Oratory on
March 17th at 11 am,
burial at Gumersbury

burial at Gunnersbury
Cemetery I pm to which
all his friends are
respectfully invited.
Flowers and enquiries to
W.S. Bond on: 0181 994
0277 W.S. BONG ON: VADA 4-7 70277.

TURNER - Joan, On 9th March 1999 at Sutton Veny House Nursing Home in her 90th year. Wife of the late Renne Turner and

late Bruce Turner and mother of Thomas and Jame. Funeral Service at Ali Saints Church. Sotton Mandeville on Friday 19th March at 2.30 pm. Flowers welcome or donations if desired to R.S.P.B. c/e F. Curtis and Son, 11
Portway, Warminster, Wilts. EA12 SQC.

TISOW - Shella Mary - peacafully on Monday 8th March 1999. After a long illness bravely borne. Beloved wife of Tony and much loved by family and friends. Service and cremation at Putney Vale Crematorium at 2.30 pm on Wednesday 17th March. Family flowers only please.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

LINDGREN - A service of celebration for the life of Mark Lindgren will be held in the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban at 2.30pm on Friday 19th March 1999. All family, friends, sequeintences and collegues are selected. irlands, acquisintences and colleagues are welcome. Family flowers only, but donations, if desired, for the Mark Lindgren Memorial Pumd should be sent to: Boodle Hatfield EJH/PES, Solicitors, 61 Brook Street, London W1Y 2BL.

WAR THOMPSON - Commander Charles Graham Thompson RN, reported missing 12th March 1943. Always in my heart. E.

IN MEMORIAM

BIRTHDAYS SUE HAMLEY happy 50th Paragla raundon? Petra & Deb. 0171 226 7530

WANTED

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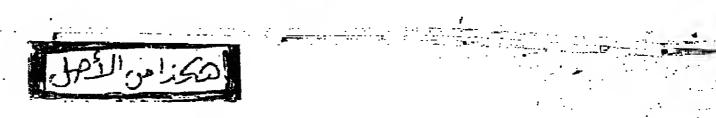
A SKIHBATZ Newspaper Original Superbly presented. Prespices 0800 906609. All AMERICANA - Birthdate Times. Any data, £18 plus free 1850's Times some Eirthdatel Tel: 0171 726 2626 DESCRIPTIVE Seats for sale WR.U. Millestern Stadium, half way line, 4 in a row, best location, (50 yrs) Tai 0836 730730 Fex 01446 700662

rig Tibes - 1791 - 1999 other di-ties swellable. Rendy for presen-tation - also Sandays', Remem-ber When. 0181 763 6363 or Call Free 0500 520000 WINTER SPORTS 20 TOTAL chalet bargains in Val d'Issue, Maribel, Les Gets, Les Contamines, 54 Anton, Lech, 2er-meit à Whiteler, Tel-O181 948 3898. ATOL 2271. ASTA V4104. www.scilmcal.com. www.skitocal.ed

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A Year of the

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THE PARTY NAMED IN

OBITUARIES

SIDNEY GOTTLIEB

Sidney Gottlieb, CIA scientist, died on March 7 aged 80. He was born on August 3, 1918.

Churchill spoke of a world made darker by the dark lights of science" he was referring to the revolting experiments conducted on human beings by Nazi doctors in the concentration camps. But his remarks might with equal justice have been applied to the activities of the CIA's Sidney Gottlieb, who used LSD and other mind-controlling drugs on a host of unwitting subjects in the quest for a formula for winning the Cold War without recourse to

Over a period of twenty years from the 1950s to the 1970s mental patients, prisoners, drug addicts, prostitutes, the clients of prostitutes and even the agency's own employmented on with drugs. At least

one "participant" in these tests died. Others went insane or suffered other forms of irre-versible psychological damage. Indeed, what Gottlieb and his CIA henchmen did was only in degree different from the activities which had sent a number of Nazi scientists to the gallows at Nuremberg in 1946.

The ghastliness of the CIA experiment is, perhaps, miti-gated only by the fact that in the end it rebounded on the agency and its paranoid leadership. For by introducing America to lysergic acid diethy lamide as one of the main planks of his programme, Gottlieb created the LSD generation: quietist, pacifist, anni-authoritarian and, above all, violently anti-Vietnam War. And the supreme irony of his programme was that the American armies which fought that conflict were in a substantial degree undermined by the very drugs with which Gottlieb had intended

to brainwash America's ene-

mies and break their morale. As the Russians were to discover a generation later in Afghanistan, it is a characteristic of "no-win" wars lought for dubious ideological aims that they tend to expose young soldiers to drug abuse as an escape from the horrors of their situation.

The mind-altering drugs. which also included marijuana and mescal, were never in fart used to any effect against important Soviet targets. And at his retirement in 1972 Gottlieb was to dismiss his entire effort for the CIA as "useless". However, drugs were not

Gottlieb's only weapon against the CIA's enemies. He was also involved in assassination plots which at this distance read like something out of a Jacobean revenge play. Thus, there was to be a poisoned handkerchief to kill the Iraqi military dictator. General Kassem. Toxic gifts were to be offered to the Cuban leader, Fidel Castro.



Gottlieb in 1977 after he had retired from the CIA

An assassination kit, complete with needles, rubber gloves, gauze masks and lethal biological materials, was designed to make away with Congo's Prime Minister, Patrice Lumumba. None of these plots achieved its aim; the Congo-lese opposition to Lumumba killed him before the agency could execute its plan.

Another imaginative idea masterminded by Gottlieb was a series of CIA brothels. set up in San Francisco in the 1960s and operated for eight years. The idea was that a cross-section of the American people from all social levels might be lured into these houses where prostitutes would slip them drugs, after

which, through two-way mirrors. ClA agents would observe their behaviour. Decor and mood were created with scrupulous care. Bedrooms had sultry crimson soft furnishings and their walls were tastefully adorned with reproductions of Toulouse Lautrec paintings and posters. But although hundreds of unsuspecting punters were drugged during this period it was never at all clear what benefit to American security was yielded

Gottlieb was the son of Jewish immigrants from Hun-gary. He himself was to fliri with almost every religion. He took a degree in chemistry at the University of Wisconsin and a doctorate in biochemistry at the California Institute of Technology. A club foot kept him out of the war but he got his chance to serve his country in 1951 when he joined the CIA.

by this fantastic and voyeuris-

oc idea.

Within two years he was made head of the ClA's techni-

cal services division and put in Subsequently John charge of the newly-estab-lished department MKUltra. Marks's book The Search for the 'Manchurian Condidate' The CIA and Mind Control Its remii was to develop (1979), gave a full account of MKUltra's activides, coming mind-controlling drugs for use against the Soviet bloc Gottlieb discovered LSD earto the simultaneous conclusions that Gottlieb was "unly on. Apart from administering it to others he was an

questionably a parriot", but that his work "clearly violated enthusiasoc recreational user himself, going on hundreds of acid "trips" during his years with the CIA. After his retirethe Nuremberg standards". After retiring from the CIA.
Gottlieb turned his back on ment from the agency he was awarded the Distinguished his destructive past and devored himself to healing. With his Intelligence Medal for his patriotic services — but the wife Margaret, who was a missionary's daughter, he ran a leprosy hospital in northern CIA was careful to destroy most of the records of the work India for 18 months. On their MKUltra had done. return to the US the couple Nevertheless, in bought a small farm in northmid-1970s his name emerged em Virginia, near the Blue into the public domain when Ridge Mountains. There they lived quietly, indulgiog them-selves in their twin pastimes of he was asked to testify before a

though his appeal to the worked in a hospice, tending committee to have his name taken out of its report was the terminally ill. Sidney Gottlieb is survived granted, newspapers had alby Margaret, and by two sons

folk dancing and goat herd-ing. Latterly they had both

RAY BROCK

Ray Brock, MBE, wine maker, chemist, businessman and racing driver, died on February 14 aged 91. He was born on August 19, 1907.

RAY BROCK was a research chemist who helped in the development of colour film, one of the fathers of the modern British wine industry. and a man with a passion for speed. He brought irrepressible energy to all his enterprises, some of it anarchically misdirected.

Raymond Barrington Brock was educated at Easthourne College and London University, where he took a degree in chemistry and physics. In recognition of his various research projects, he was later made a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chemistry.

Between the wars his love affair with speed and things mechanical was nurtured by racing motorcycles at Brooklands. He was also offered the use of a works Levis to ride in the Ulster TT. He was not sure how to get it to Northern Ireland until his cousin offered the use of his Delage car. The two of them then managed to strap the Levis to the from mudguard, and despite raised police eyebrows they drove all the way, peering through the

During the General Strike he drove a London bus, and in 1931 he won himself flying lessons as first prize in a competition run by Tatler. He duly qualified as a private pilot in 1932. He also shot at Bisley,



Ray Brock in unusually stately mode, driving the Cannstadt Daimler at Beaulieu

and commentated at Brooklands, Crystal Palace and Donnington. In what time he could spare from these hobbies, he worked as a research chemist in the photographic industry, with the Imperial Dry Plate Company, Ilford Photographic and Dufaycolour.

During the war he was Chief Air Raid Warden for the City of London, for which he was appointed MBE and made a Freeman of the City. But living in Croydon during the Blitz proved dangerous, and when Brock and his wife lost the roof of their house in 1941, they moved to Oxted.

Missing the delights of imported fruits during rationing. Brock decided to try growing peaches (against purpose-built walls) and table grapes (under special glass cloches which be helped to develop). Investigat-ing vine varieties, he discovered several that were suitable only for wine, so he planted a wine vineyard and appealed to the Royal Horticultural Society members to send him

cuttings. He also sought varieties from France and Germany, just months after the war. As his meticulous garden diaries show, the first experimental vines were planted out

in March 1946 and, aided by a full-time gardener, Brock es-tablished what was initially called the Beebrock Vineyard and later became the Oxted Viticultural Research Station. For almost 30 years and at his own expense, he worked at this, almost inadvertently laying the foundations for what is now a 2,250-acre industry.

More than 600 differ

cultivars of vines were given trials for suitability; accurate records were kept of the sugar and acid levels and the ripening dates achieved, and this data was assembled and published in four little books. On a

PUBLIC NOTICES

strictly non-commercial basis. he also made wines - red and white still and sparkling and in latter years experimented with distillation, producing

extremely palarable brandy. Together with The Grape Vine in England by Edward Hyams, Brock's booklets prompted Major-General Sir Guy Salisbury-Jones to plant the first modern British vineyard at Hambledon in 1951. This was followed by Jack Ward's Horam Manor vineyard in 1953 (using cuttings from Oxted) and Gore-Browne's Beautieu in 1958. These became the backbone of the fledgeling English wine industry.

Brock was by now a director of Townson & Mercer Ltd, a firm of scientific instrument makers, and he became president of the Scientific Instrument Makers Association in 1957. But he was also involved in motor racing in the early postwar period, holding the lap record at Goodwood for a sports car of up to two litres in 1948. He twice drove an HRG sports car in the Spa 24-hours race, and having designed and built his own streamlined body for the car, he was third in his class in 1948 and second in 1949. Brock subsequently aban-

doned track racing for Swiss hill-climbs, firstly in a special Healey, again designed and built by himself, and then in a works Jowett Javelin. This inspired him to build a complete car to his own design, with a Javelin engine which was to be capable of 100 mph and 50 mpg. The resulting rear-engined coupé was extremely advanced for the time.

At the age of 50 he tried the Cresta run and was co-opted into the British bobsleigh team as brakeman, but he lost his London headquarters in Bouventhusiasm for that abruptly erie Street when they had a bad crash and he broke several ribs. He also took up yachting, design-ing a number of fittings. particularly related to the engine for the yachts he acquired. He went on to design and construct a steam launch Silencia, on which he often took friends of all ages for Sunday picnics. Being some-what jerry-built, the vessel's fuel pipe was wont to burst, at Cecil Morley, CBE, former which Brock would produce a Secretary-General of the

swat out the flames. His later business interests included owning a colour printing works, a Renault franchise and a computer firm, when computers were still in their infancy. He maintained his interest in cars into his eighties, and was instrumental in the recommissioning of the National Motor Museum's 1898 Cannstadt Daimler. Subsequendy — "to keep my mind active" — he helped to restore a number of classic vehicles. His last venture, still to be completed, is a steam cycle car. He married Rosemary Spi-

disreputable handkerchief and

cer in 1933, and she survives him. There are no children.

TOM BAISTOW

Senate committee which was

investigating the extent of the

CIA's secret experiments. Al-

ready disclosed his idenoty.

Tom Baistow journalist, died on March 8 aged 84. He was born on July 13, 1914.

TOM BAISTOW was an allround journalist of the old school. For more than a decade he was deputy editor of the New Statesman, but that was merely the culmination of a long and varied newspaper

Enoch Thomas Baistow was born in Glasgow and educated in his native Scotland, though part of his childhood was spent in western Canada. He left school at the age of 14 to become a copyboy on the Scottish Daily Express, where his father worked as a compositor. Resolving early on that he wanted to be on the editorial side of the paper, he started writing captions for photo-graphs, subbing "shorts" and making himself generally useful in the newsroom. By the age of 17 he had moved to Manchester to become the "splash sub" on the old Daily Sketch and a few years later he transferred to the News

In the war he was commissioned into the Royal Tank Regiment, seeing action as a tank commander in North Africa, Normandy (where he on D-Davi Holland and Germany. Though he returned to his old iob on the News Chronicle in Manchester, he was restive at first and thought of emigrating to Israel, where his wife. whom he had married in 1938, had family connections. Instead, however, he accepted a job as deputy features editor of the News Chronicle at its

He spent the next dozen years on that paper, being successively features editor and then foreign editor, abandoning ship only when the News Chronicle was scuttled

Stock Exchange, died on

February 14 aged 87. He was born on May 20, 1911.

WHEN Cecil Morley joined the

Stock Exchange, its role was simply to enable investors to

buy or sell shares and compa-

nies to raise capital. The value

of an investment depended on

the rate of return and security

of the capital, but the process of

As a result, new procedures

were adopted to produce quick

settlements, an effect of which

is that today's violent fluctua-

nions in prices show little

relation to investment value.

Morley felt that he had spent

22 years refitting the Ark.

investment was slow.

by the Cadbury family in October 1960. He was father of the journalists' chapel at the time and fought hard to secure the best deal he could for all those who were thrown out of work so abruptly (the paper was still selling a million copies a day at the time it was closed down along with its stablemate, the London evening paper, the Star).

Baistow had many close friends in Bouverie Street, including the columnist James Cameron, the diplomatic correspondent William Forrest, and, perhaps above all the cartoonist, Vicky, who killed himself in 1966.

Chronicle as its northern picture editor.

> stow had shopped on the left-hand side of the street, so it forced next move was to the old TUC paper, the Daily Herald, where he became a special feature writer. In 1964 the Herald was transmogrified into the Hugh Cudlipp Sun, and as an old-fashioned socialist (indeed, in the 1930s, an undercover member of the Communist Party) Baistow never felt entirely at home on the only paper to be "born in the age in which we live".

Accordingly, in 1965 he accepted with alacrity an invitation from Paul Johnson to join the staff of the New Statesman, which was then selling more than 90,000 cop-

CECIL MORLEY

Cecil Denis Morley was

born in Pembrokeshire. He

was educated at Clifton Col-

lege and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he read law,

and in 1935 he qualified as a

He then joined the staff of

the Stock Exchange, assisting in the share and loan depart-

ment, which was responsible

for the admission of compa-

nies to the London market. In

1938 Morley joined the Territo-

rial Army, and throughout the

war he was employed on

and-aircraft operations, rising

In 1949 he was appointed Secretary of the Stock Ex-

change, which was embarking

on a modernisation pro-

gramme. The first improve-

to the rank of major.

ies a week and at the peak of its circulation success. Very soon he was appointed deputy editor and, in production terms, became the kingpin of the entire enterprise. He also wrote a highly respected press column of his own (at first under the pseudonym Mag-nus Turnstile). He was a neat writer, and it was perhaps a pity that his preoccupation each week with bringing the paper out meant that only occasionally did he get the

chance of deploying his liter-ary talents to the full. He worked at the Statesman for three successive editors, Paul Johnson, Richard Crossman and Anthony Howard, and served as acting editor for substantial periods when the first two were absent through ill-health. He never tried to become editor himself being content with the role of sage counsellor.

He left in 1976, taking a job as press officer (and part-time lecturer) at the new School of Journalism at City University. as well as writing a press commentary for The Guardian and broadcasting frequently, notably on LBC. In 1985 he produced an excellent and concise guide to modern newspaper history entitled Fourth-Rate Estate, and from his favourite vantage point at the Savile Club what was going on in the world

For all his left-wing leanings he had a highly pragmatic streak, which led to his placarding his Orpington home with Labour posters during at least three general elections before going off quietly to vote Liberal as the only effective way to keep out the Tory. To his younger, more romantic colleagues, he was never anything but a shrewd exemplar of commonsense.

of communications.

He leaves his widow. Mae. to whom he had been married for 60 years, and their son and daughter.

ment was in public relacions

and hospitality. The next step

involved the creation of a

compensation fund to protect clients. This in turn led to the

supervision of member firms'

accounts, and finally to the

examination of candidates for

membership. The first steps were also taken for the rebuild-

ing of the Stock Exchange and

for the settlement of dealings

in all of these operations Morley was much engaged.

He became Secretary-General

of the Stock Exchange in 1965,

and was appointed CBE in

In 1936 he married Lily Florence Younge. She died in

1992, but he is survived by

by mechanical means.

1967. He retired in 1971.

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FRENCH PAPERS

PARIS, March 5.

Empress's lying in, sums of money will be distributed to pay the child-bed expenses of poor parents, and to redeem effects pawned at the Mortt de Pieté. The acts of munificence of the same kind, ordered upon the announcing of the Empress's pregnancy, had for their object the relief of a great many poor inhabitants of Paris. Relief was administered at their houses to 2,166; the child-bed expenses of 2,062 families were defrayed; the sums received by 14,401 debtors of the Mont de Picté were repaid; and the effects given in pawn have been restored to those who deposited

IT IS said, that on the occasion of the

The small apartments looking into the Palace-court of the Tuilleries, which were lately occupied by the Grand Marshal, have been united to the apartments of the Empress. and will be occupied by the infant on its birth. and by the persons attached to its service.

We are assured, that at the moment so impaiently expected by all the French, and which must crown their dearest wishes, the birth of a Prince will be announced by 101 discharges of cannon, and the birth of a girl by 21. These salutes will be repeated by the

ON THIS DAY

March 12, 1811 经国际企业

This column of assorted news from France was culled from the French papers, some of it several weeks old to judge by the datelines. The Monts de Pieté were charitable pawnshops.

artiflery of all the fortresses of France and all the ports, of the vessels in the roads, and all

The privateer the Duke of Dantzic, which sailed from the river of Nanz on the 8th of October, 1810, entered it on the 26th of February. On the 20th of November it captured, in the Sombrero passage, the English brig Ceres, from Martinique, which was recaptured off the river of Bourdeaux. On the 3rd of December It took, on the same station, the English brig Bonetts, from Guadaloupe, with colonial produce. It also

places abroad occupied by the armies . . .

took off the entrance of the gulf of Mexico, the American brig Canton, bound to Liverpool, laden with 1,275 bags of cotton. In the same latitude il took the English brig Jane, from Savannah to Liverpool, with 700 bags of

In the course of its cruise it sunk a number of other ships of no value. This privateer was often chased by frigates and corvettes in different latitudes, and experienced five storms. In the last, on the 5th of February, it was obliged to throw its guns overboard.

CHERBOURG, Feb 23 The English sloop Tryal, of Weymouth, of about 20 tons, today emered this port, captured by the privateers Loup Marin and l'Epervier. This vessel was in ballast.

L'ORIENT, Feb 23 An English prize, named the Pelteisses, was wrecked on the 16th instant, on the coast of Belleisle; her lading consisted of conon, peltry. Campeachy wood, acajou, and guyac. The greater part of her cargo is expected to be

Thirteen French sailors on board the prize were saved, together with 3 English prisoners. The Pelteisses was about 200 ions, and was on her voyage from Providence Island to London. when she was captured by the privateer Rodeur of Bordeaux.

NEWS

Euro up as Lafontaine goes

■ Europe was plunged into confusion as the German Finance Minister Oskar Lafontaine resigned after a fierce cabinet row with the Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder. The news of the departure of a man decried by The Sun as "the most dangerous man in Europe" was greeted with barely concealed glee in Downing Street and on international markets. Herr Lafontaine, only a few months in office, had made himself into Britain's bugbear by pushing hard for tax harmonisation.... ... Pages 1, 15

Al Fayed brother wins passport

■ The brother of Mohamed Al Fayed won his six-year battle to get a UK passport, opening the way for the Harrods chairman himself. In giving his brother, Ali Fayed, his passport, Mr Straw ruled that a government report branding the brothers as liars was no longer relevant to the applications Pages 1, 5

Oldest ancestor

Fossil hunters revealed the skull of what they said could be mammals' earliest ancestor: a creature which lived 250 million years ago beside an inland sea in what is now South Africa

Farm subsidy row The European Union settled the

outline of a radical reform tofarm subsidies but Britain and France said that the deal needed more .. Pages 1, 13 Schools turmoil

The first priva osation of an educa-

oon authority moved a step closer with the resignation of the Chief Executive of Hackney, in East

Paedophile inquiry

Detectives have reopened their inquiries into the deaths of two children after 29 years to see if they were the victims of paedophiles. Police have exhumed the body of an Il-year-old girl.....Page 3

Clegg is cleared

Paratrooper Lee Clegg was acquitted of the 1990 murder of a Belfast iovrider despite being branded a liar by the judge... Page 6

Wembley result

Wembley Stadium was sold for £103 million to a consortium backed by the Football Association. The ground will be demolished and rebuilt.... Page 8 Argentina with the feeling that he had become a pawn in the country's internal politics as it moves towards an I election.......Page 9 Cancer screening

Goodbye Argentina

The Prince of Wales left

Routine breast cancer screening

in Britain is now as good as the high standards reached in the clinical trials that led to it being introduced ten years ago Page 11

Peers rebellion

Hereditary peers have received an extraordinary call to rise up in rebellion against the Bill which would expel them from the House

Doctor guilty

An anaesthetistwho has been pilloried in Zimbabwe as a latterday version of Josef Mengele had his conviction for causing the deaths of two children confirmed by the Supreme Court Page 17

Guatemala apology

President Clinton has apologised for a dark and long-buried episode of America's foreign policy: its support for right-wing govern-ments in Guatemala...... Page 18

Clinton doubts

With Monica Lewinsky refusing to leave the headlines and accusations about past infidelities, President Clinton's marriage was reported to be under strain Page 19

Close your eyes and think of Kubrick

■ The first scenes from Eyes Wide Shut, the final film made by Stanley Kubrick, were released and promptly judged too explicit to be shown on television. Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman are seen having sex in front of a mirror in the 90-second trailer that the film director made to show to cinema owners. The movie has been almost three years in the making..



Heidi and Kindy relax with Kim Innes between obedience events at Crufts in the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, yesterday

BUSINESS

M&G bid: Prudendal, the UK's biggest insurance company launched an agreed bid for the fund manager, after a year of talks Page 27 Euro gains: The euro staged a remarkable recovery as markets reacted with undisguised glee to the news that Oskar Lafontaine had re-.... Page 27

Mirror report: The Government is coming under pressure to publish a potentially explosive report into the 1991 flotation of Mirror Group Newspapers, after the High Court ruled that investigations of Kevin Maxwell are unfair Page 27 Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 94.20 to 6335.7. The pound fell 0.07 cents to \$1.6265 but rose 0.72p against the euro to 66.60p. The g index rose to

AAINFORMATION

used car reports from seeu of 175 cars 6336 416

HOURS OF DARKNESS

NEWSPAPERS

SUPPORT RECYCLING

SThe Met. Office

610 397

.... Page 30

SPORT

Football: The Premier League chief executive, Peter Leaver, and chairman, Sir John Quinton, resigned in the wake of controversy about the award of television consultancy con-... Page 52 Boxing: The World Boxing Council

is not happy with the appointment of Arthur Mercante Jr as referee for the bout between Lennox Lewis and Evander Holyfield Page 52 Rugby union: Four players and six administrative staff have been released by Richmond in a first wave of redundancies aimed at cutting .. Page 49

Golf: Mark James, the Europe Ryder Cup captain, had a first-round 67 to put himself in joint second place with 11 others in the Turespaña Masters.

Starting in

The Saturday Times

Tomorrow

New racing

correspondent

Alan Lee

takes up the

reins

Plus:

Armchair Investor

Bad sports: "London seems destined to play reluctant host to one public-building fiasco every decade, doesn't it?" Richard Morrison on the Battle of Wembley .. Page 35 On stage: In London Amanda Har-

ris takes on a role Cocteau original-

ly wrote for Edith Piaf; and Hugh

Leonard's new play opens in Dub-Foot-tappers: The choreographer Richard Alston brings his dance company to the South Bank as part of a national tour that underlines his importance.

Friday pop: David Sinclair reviews the new albums by Blur and Beth Orton among others and assesses the threat to record sales posed by fans downloading from the Inter-

Monacing: "There is a peculiar air of menace - militancy even about the build-up to March 14." Mother's Day bothers Jane Shil-.Page 20

Separate development: A year after appearing in a documentary about parenthood the model Betti Romani and her partner Sebastian Vince still live apart ____ Page 21 Joe Joseph: Tried Harold Pinter's bolognese sauce or Noel Coward's pancakes? How great writers cook the books. .. Page 21

Troubled tales: People affected by the Troubles are telling their stories on Radio Ulster Moneyspinner: What will be the next coup by Claudia Rosencrantz who brought us Who Wants to Be a

Testing: A preview of the new national curriculum tests for ages 7 Page 42

Over-studied: Some students are spending more time studying than is good for their results Page 43

It is a bad time for Congress to debase whether the US should send troops to help police any peace reached in Kosovo. But there is no better time left

RADIO & TV

Preview: Comic Relief: The fun starts with Lenny Henry and Denise van Outen (BBC1, 7pm) Review: Paul Hoggart finds the most expensive object in history __ Pages 50.51

- OPTHION

Kingmaker's head Lafontaine stunned all Germany

by resigning from his post as Finance Minister and leader of the Social Democrats. But he is unlikely to remain a quiet ghost......Page 23

The CAP still grows Yesterday's stitched-together bar-

gain on the reform of common agricultural policy will neither solve the EU's immediate budgetary problems nor meet the challenges of EU enlargement....

Dinner plate battle

As Prince Charles tucks in Uruguay may take pride that this is not the first time that they have served the British well....

COLUMNS

SIMON JENKINS

Most speeches in my experience are read, "because I can't do it better". In which case, don't speak. The implication is that the audience has come merely for the pleasure of gazing on the speaker's face, as he reads what could be read far faster _ Page 22 on its own.

GEORGE BRIDGES

Britain's education system is guilty of institutional incompetence, not racism. More than one in five adults, whatever their colour, can barely read a timetable... Page 22

PHILIP HOWARD

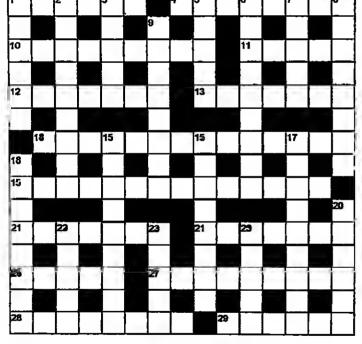
The Government has not yet thought through the literary and linguistic consequences of getting rid of the pound. To have Shylock insisting on his bond of 0.45359 kilograms of flesh will not fit into an iambic pentameter ____ Page 22

Sidney Gottlieb, CIA scientist; Ray Brock, winemaker, businessman and racing driver; Tom Balstow,

Budget; America's and global power; right to roam.

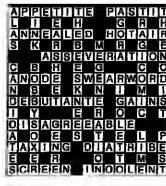
8, 18, 27, 32, 36, 49. Bonus: 46

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,049



- ACROSS
- t Flag officer (6). 4 lt carried Scandinavian forces and desires with it (8). 10 Inidally keep member of Jamai-can cult inside (3.1.5).
- Cycle about (5).
 Fancy drink put forward (7).
 Puzzling expression of grief at 5-0
- 14 Save from drowning someone out of his depth (4.3.2,5).
 19 Lack of appreciation unless great fun is arranged (t4).
 21 Dairy product used in apricot
- 24 ... cooked, then, can be delightful
- 26 Bear's not right to invest like this
- 27 He's been given prescription con-

Solution to Puzzle No 21,048



- 28 Southern vineyard given very little inspection (8). 29 Villain beginning to wisecrack and gag (6).
- I inconsiderate, but not initially nischievous (6). 2 Lad has to remove cover from fish
- American private doctor introducing singular gadget (5).
- Prefer one Conservative for local consumption (5). Wrong year, wrong ploy at Twick-
- investigation (5).
- 8 Cosmetic treatment price due to be revised (8).
- 9 Alternative to husky man unable to talk (8). 15 Deep as emotions chap experienced about creative work (9).
- 16 Plenty to cry about formerly? On the contrary! (8). 17 Will try to get the last word, and thereby put end to argument (9). 18 Periods for which accommoda
- tion is required (8). 20 The way irritating sensation can become pain (6). 22 Having caught fish on river, get a
- drink (5). 23 A professional needs new stage
- part (5). 25 Can't always predict exact result

when starting escapade (5). Times Two Crossword, page 52

THE TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITEO, 1999. Published and printed and licensed for distribution in electronic and all other derivative forms by Times Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London El 900. telephone 0171-782 5000 and also printed at Kitling Road. Prescot. Merseyside, L34 9HN, telephone 0151-546 2000. Friday. March 12, 1999. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.

FORECAST come quite mild with sunny spells, but the south-east will day dull. Most of Scotland and Northern Ireland will be windy with Ire-

lands: mild but dull with light rain, brighten-ing slowly. Light SW wind. Max 13C (55F). Centi S England, W Midlands, Chan-nel Islands: duli at first, then surny spelis Light SW breeze, Max 13C (55F). □ SW, NW, Cent N England, S&N Wales, Lakes, IoM: early rain, then surnry spells and isolated showers later. Light SW wind. Max 12C (45F).

☐ E, NE England: early rain, then sunny spells. Moderate SW wind. Max 11C (52F).

USW, NE, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll: sunny spells but risk of showers by afternoon. Fresh SW wind. Max 9C (48F). Orkney, Shetlan wind. Max 8C (46F). and: showers. Strong \$ ☐ N Ireland: sunny spells in south and east but showers in north and west. Light to moderate SW wind. Max 10C (50F).

Republic of Ireland: showers. Wind SW, moderate or fresh. Max 10C (50F).

deen, Moray Firth: showers in north, some sun in south. Fresh SW wind. Max 10C (50F).

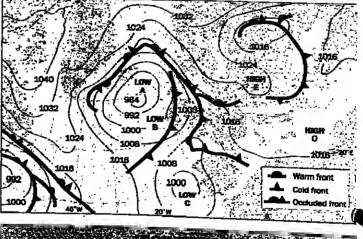
☐ Outlook: rain may linger in the south-east early tornorrow but most of the country will be mild with sunny spells. AROUND BRITAIN VESTERNA SELECTION

0 01 Aspatria
Awarnore
Bermingha
Bognor R
Bountemil
Bristol
Buston
Cardiff
Clacton
Colwyn Ba
Cromer
Edinburgh
Eskdalema
Samouth
Fishguard
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Jersey, 13C (55F); lowest day max — Drumalbin, South — Stornoway, 0,83in; most sun — Skegness, 7.1hr

MODERATE MODERATE

Changes to the chart below: lows A and B merge, drift slowly north, and begin to fill; low C slowly fills in situ; high D drifts around with little change, but high E will slowly decline



HT PM 7.0 19.03 5.4 21.03 2.0 17.12 3.7 19.33 4.9 13.34 1.216 1.2 13.03 3.5 182.7 4.5 1858 3.6 1858 9.8 13.49 8.8 23.54 3.2 19.01 21;40 14:06 18:56 13:52 12:57 18:54 20:03 12:28 19:08 18:33 13:14 13:14 14:06 22:33 Avortneut Beffast Cardiff Devenport Dover Dublin Palmouth Greenock Harwich Holyhead Hull (Albert Magaz Lyne Leitin 33 28 87 42 50 33 40 24 68 45 45 42 6:16 8:38 4:50 6:59 0:54 6.9 5.5 2.1 3.6 4.9 2.8 4.1 3.6 4.4 3.8 8.8 3.2

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No-one departs more



back to best Arts, page 37



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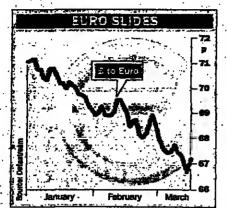
Wembley, what a fiasco

Arts, page 35

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY MARCH 12 1999

Euro revives after Lafontaine resigns



By Alasdair Murray ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE euro staged a remarkable recovery yes-terday as international markets reacted with undisguised glee to the news that Oskar Lafonaine, the German Finance

Minister, had resigned.

Investors quickly concluded that Herr
Lafontaine's departure would bring an end
to the feuding between the European Central Bank and the German Government which has marred the euro's debut. The euro, which had traded close to

record hows for most of the day, jumped more than two cents against the dollar within minutes of the resignation — climbing from \$1.0800 to sente at about \$1.1000. The

euro also wiped out most of its earlier losses against the pound, climbing back from a record low of 66.45p to reach 67.2p.

Earlier in the day the euro's problems had been thrown into sharp relief by comments made by George Soros, the billionaire speculator. Mr Soros said that the currency would remain under pressure as long as political tensions remained between the European Central Bank and some member states.

Analysts predicted that the resignation would boost the chances of a European rate cut because the ECB would now feel its independence was no longer under threat.

Gwyn Hacche, European economist at HSBC, said: "Lafontaine was persistent in calling on the ECB to cut, and the ECB couldn't be seen as giving into his wishes." But some

economists added a note of caution, saying that, until a successor was appointed, huge uncertainties remain. Robin Marshall, head of research at Chase, the investment bank, said: "It doesn't solve the underlying policy issues in euroland, so the danger of pressures be-tween fiscal and monetary policy remains."

European bonds, including British gilts, also climbed higher after the resignation. The news, however, came too late to have any impact on European stock markets, although analysts predicted that European markets would climb higher today on hopes of an ECB rate cut and because of the widespread perception that Herr Lafontaine was

Shares in London are also expected to test new highs after setting a record yesterday.

ance from oil stocks as Opec countries finally moved towards an agreement to cut producmoved towards an agreement to cut production. The news sent oil prices climbing and also helped to push Wall Street more than 100 points higher to its own record high. The FTSE 100 index of leading shares closed up 94.2 at 6.335.7, having earlier also touched a record intra-day high of 6,360.3. Shares in BP and Shell, which closed up 9.3 per cent and 8.3 per cent respectively, contributed about 60 points to the ETSE 100s stain Electrical states. about 60 points to the FTSE 100's gain. Financial services shares also made strong gains after the surprise Prudential Corpora-tion takeover bid for M&G Group revived hopes of further consolidation in the sector.

Commentary, page 29

Business Today

No tears for this Oskar Pru bid boosts FTSI



Tempting target

How M&G attracted an offer it could not refuse

Pag	91			
SPOCK MARKET				
TSE 100	6385.7 2.50%	(+94.2)		
TSE All Shere	2908.34 15502.14	(+42.53) (+22.14)		
ew York ow Jones &P Composite		+ 141.81)* (+ 16.55)*		
US PA	ne.	er of trape to the court		
ederal Funds one bond	957 5.58%	(4"=%) (95%) (5.56%)		

London close ____ \$294.05 (\$292.2 * denotes middley tracking prices





MED-4CE	E	
FTSE 100	6385.7 2.50%	(+94.2)
Yield FTSE All Share	2908.34 15502.14	(+42.53) (+22.14)
New York Dow Jones	9814.85	+ 141.81)*
S&P Composite		(+16.55)*
Manager Lie Day	95	77
us Ro		
Federal Funds	25	(4"+%) (954*)
Yield	5.58%	(5.56%)
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luture (.hm)	116.54	(116.19)
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New York		
S	1,6285*	(1,6265)
5	1.6267 1.5013	(1.6274)
e		

NORTH SEA OR. Brent15-day(May). \$12.70 (\$12.10)

The Pru to pay £1.9bn for M&G takeover

By CAROLINE MERRELL, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

PRUDENTIAL, Britain's big-gest insurer, yesterday paid £1.9 billion in cash to secure M&G, the fund management group, in a bid to consolidate its position in the retail financial services market.

The Pru's cash offer, recommended by the M&G board, values M&G shares at £25, a 40 per cent premium to the pre-Five months ago, they stood at less than £10.

The takeover, which comes after a year of talking to each other, will enhance Prudential's retail product range and position it for what it believes will be huge growth in the savings and pensions market. The Pru estimates that this market will grow from £160 billion to £420 billion over the

Pointing to recent govern-ment initiatives, which the Pru believes will lead to massive

ersonal savings, Sir Peter Davis, Prudential's group chief executive, said: "Our vision is quite clear about the growth in the market for these products."

M&G directors can expect to net about £8 million under the terms of the offer from their own shares, excluding options. Many of the fund manager's 1,000 staff will also benefit. Sir Peter said he was confident that M&G's directors and

managers would remain after the takeover. The Pru said yesterday that it was not planning extensive job cuts. However, an internal memo leaked from the Pru last night suggested that it plans to trim M&G personnel. The memo says: "There is scope for rationalisation of retail fund administration and of M&G's life and pensions back office."

Under the terms of deal

M&G's retail fund management operation, which has more than £10 billion under management, will be merged with Prudential's unit trust division, which has about £3 billion under management. The M&G brand will be kept.

M&G's 'life and pensions business, which has £3 billion under management, will be joined with Prudential's life and pensions business, while M&G's institutional funds will be put together with Prudential Portiolio Management. M&G has more than 700,000 customers, while Prudential

has ten million worldwide. Sir Peter said the Pro first approached M&G about a year ago. M&G was at that time suffering from a deluge of bad publicity over poor fund performance. Independent financial advisers, its main source of distribution, had been put off selling its products and M&G was forced to implement a series of internal changes to try to tighten up its investment

methods and performance. Crucial to the takeover has been the role of the Esmee Fairbairn Charitable Trust, which owns about 33.3 per cent of M&G. The trust was set up by Ian Fairbairn, one of the founder's of M&G. The trust had always been reluctant to sell. John Fairbairn, lan Fairhairn's nephew and the trust's chairman, said: "We have a continuing regard and a kind of parental attitude to M&G. We think the two companies fit together very well." Fairbairn himself stands to make

Ell million from the deal. Some analysts claimed that Prudential was paying too much for M&G. Thomas Rayner at SG Securities said: "It is a bit of a full price at 10 per cent of M&G's funds under management, M&G is almost all retail business but it is pretty aggressive for a group which has been struggling in

terms of performance." The deal leaves Schroders and Perpetual as the two remaining big quoted independent fund managers in the UK. 6 per cent fall in adjusted pre-



Bob Seelert, head of Saatchi & Saatchi, whose clients include the British Army, paraded a 30 per cent profit rise in the firm's first full year since demerger

BY RAYMOND SNODDY

SAATCHI & SAATCHI, the advertising group whose clients in-clude the British Army, celebrated its first full year since the demerger from Cordiant with a 30 per cent rise in underlying pre-

tax profits to £30.7 million. Bob Seclert, Saatchi chairman and architect of the de-

Seelert marches ahead

merger, said: "We could have sunk like a stone or flown like a bird. Both companies have done well, but we have got the

The companies began sepa-

rate trading in December 1997 at 110p each. Yesterday Cordiant was unchanged at 164½p.

while Saatchi rose 6p to 1891/p. "Shareholders should have

his erstwhile colleagues to his target for a 10 per cent margin in 1999. The Saatchi margin. including income from joint a smile on their faces," said ventures, rose to 9.3 per cent

Saatchi won a record \$500 million (£300 million) net new billings in the year and has won a further \$200 million so Mr Seelert, who is closer than

The company, which did not pay an interim dividend, has lifted the final payment to 1.4p (1.2p).

(8.8 per cent) in the year to Sep

Warning hits

By RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

sharply yesterday after the An-glo-Dutch information group re-ported a fall in underlying prof-its and gave warning that earnings growth would be negligi-ble this year.

The shares fell 51p to a low of 513%p before edging higher to close at 532%p, down 32p on the day. Investors were also concerned by the company's failure to name a new chief executive after a seven-month search.

The position is vacant after Nigel Stapleton's decision to leave the group. Mr Stapleton is currently co-chairman, sharing the role with Herman Bruggink, head of Elsevier, the group's Dutch arm.

Reed Elsevier yesterday said the search had been narrowed to just two candidates from outside the group, and an announcement was possible at the company's annual meeting next

month. The company reported a tax profits to £773 million in 1998 and the co-chairman said that 1999 "will not be a year of any significant profit growth". Despite the setback Mr Sta-

pleton said that "looking be hind the numbers" there was plenty to give shareholders confidence. The 1998 results had been affected by issues that were unlikely to recur. They included the 2 per cent earnings growth lost through dilution from the sale of IPC Magazines, which netted a £692 million exceptional gain, adverse currency movements and problems with Reed's travel information

During the year Reed Elsevier also spent £80 million on new developments including the launch ScienceDirect, an online data base containing 1,000 scientific journals in electronic form and updates to Lexis-Nexis, the legal and general data base.

Mirror report Reed Elsevier | pressure grows |

THE Government is coming under pressure to publish a potentially explosive report into the 1991 flotation of Mirror Group Newspapers, after the High Court ruled that on

ous questions about the methods used in Department of Trade and Industry investiga-tions, Sir Richard Scott, the Vice-Chancellor, said DTI inspectors were unreasonable and oppressive in demanding interviews with Mr Maxwell, oungest son of the late pubishing tycoon Robert Maxwell. Rejecting the DTI's at-tempt to commit Mr Maxwell, 39, for contempt, the judge said the inspectors should make use of evidence gath-

MGN flotation after an inves-

going investigations of Kevin Maxwell are unfair. In a ruling handed down yesterday, which raises seri-

ered in previous interviews. The DTI may now find it hard to resist calls to publish an interim report into the

tigation in which evidence has been seen or heard from 276

> The report threatens serious embarrassment to leading figures in both politics and industry. There have been sugges-tions that it has been deliber-ately suppressed. A DTI spokesman said last night: "We hope the judgment will allow the impasse to be resolved and lead to a speedy resolution of the inspectors' inquiry."

Mr Maxwell, who defended himself in court, borrowed £15,000 from friends to pay for legal advice. He is seeking to recover his costs from the DTI. Mr Maxweli said: "The DTI were asking the court to find me in contempt, to send me to prison or fine me £10,000. The judge has said the procedures were oppressive and unfair and there was no requirement for me to an-

Commentary, page 29

Canary Wharf chiefs net £6m

By CARL MORTISHED

TWO Canary Wharf directors will secure an instant gain of about £6 million on flotation if they exercise options granted

to them only a year ago. George Iacobescu, chief executive, and Peter Anderson, finance director, were each granted options over shares, exercisable at a price of 791/2p. Canary Wharf yesterday revealed that shares in the flotation would be placed with institutions at a price between 280p and 350p, valuing the company at £1.9 biltion to £2.3 billion.

Mr lacobescu has options over 3.6 million shares and Mr Anderson over a million shares. At the maximum placing price, the net gain for the two men would be more than £12 million. though only half of the options are exercisable immediately. The pathfinder prospectus,

published yesterday, also reeals that Paul Reichmann, who founded Canary Wharf, has been issued warrants that will increase his stake from 11

per cent to 15 per cent after the flotation. The warrants are exercisable at a price of 450p. The flotation price has been struck at the low end of valuation estimates for the company which owns a 4.7 million so office development in Lon-don's Docklands. The sponsors appear not to have adoptation by Hillier Parker and Savills which included future

The owners, including Ma Reichmann, Prince al-Waleed hin Talal, CNA Financial, Franklin Mutual, the Glick family and interests of Edmond Safra, are not selling shares, but Canary Wharf will raise up to £585 million in new funds. Canary Wharf is not being sold to private investors; among risk factors cited in the prospec-

tus is the impact of the euro on

London's financial market.

profits and tax breaks pricing

the company at £2.6 billion.

Tempus, page 30

Now boarding, Gate closed, Now boarding, Gate closed, Now boarding, Gate closed

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Telecom Italia to buy in mobile division

By Carl Mortished INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

TELECOM ITALIA plans to buy in its \$55 billion mobile telephone associate business. in a massive restructuring aimed at foiling a \$58 billion (£36 billion) bid from Olivetti. the ambitious electronics and telecoms conglomerate.

Franco Bernabe, chief executive of the embattled Italian utility, revealed the company's industrial strategy, comprising an offer for the oulstanding 40 per cent of TtM. disposals of non-core assets, the enfranchisement of its socalled "savings" shares and a share buyback.

The move could scupper the bid by the much smaller Olivetti. Should Telecom Italia succeed in securing approval from its investors at a general meeting on April 16, the enlarged group could be valued at more than \$100 billion, well beyond the reach of Oliveni.

Olivetti is only bidding for the ordinary shares of Tele-com Italia. By enfranchising the savings shares, which receive dividends but have no vote, Telecom Italia will modernise its share structure and raise the stakes for Olivetti.

Telecom Italia needs investor consent to get approval for the restructuring from Consob, the Italian stock market regulator. However, analysts yesterday said the telephone utility would have little trouble in securing the necessary majority. TIM investors are being offered a premium of about 10 per cent in the offer.

Analysts reckoned that the integration of TIM was overdue as the company risked losing the full benefit of growth in mobile phones. One said: 'TIM was spun off to realise its value but telephone companies are seeing more business migrating to mobiles."

In addition, Telecom Italia is launching a share buyback programme for 10 per cent of the equity which will be financed by a €10 billion (£6.6 billion) financing on the capital markets.

http://www.times-money.co.uk

Electra proposes £500m share buyback scheme

ELECTRA Investment Trust. cause of fears that 3i will be unthe embanied El.3 billion venture capital fund, has offered to buy back its own shares at a cost of £544 million. The offer, worth 780p 2 share, sets a bid benchmark

for 3i, the rival venture capital specialist that wants to buy Electra. 3i's offer of 705p a share was turned down by the Electra board last month. Yesterday 3i said it was "considering its position".

Electra shares yesterday rose 40p to 7299 p. The price fell short of the buy-in price be-

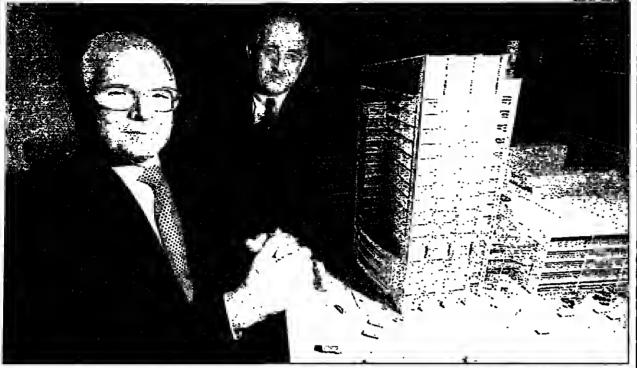
willing to match the 786p offer. In addition, Electra will only purchase a maximum of 40 per cent of the slock and doubts are being expressed about the value of Electra shares that will remain in existence after the buy-in is com-

Electra's board attempted to raise hopes that the underlying value of the trust is greater

The 786p offer is equivalent to an updated net asset value published vesterday by Electra. But the board said its valuto emphasise its belief that the true value of at least 915p would be proved correct. The ation policy was conservative. It said a more realistic value, given that past NAVs had unbuyback at 786p is structured as a tender offer. Electra will borrow up to £750 million to derestimated realisable values for unquoted investements, was 915p a share.

fund the purchase. Yesterday Electra also an-Peter Walls, investment trust analyst at Credit Lyonnounced the purchase of the nais Securities, the stockbrooutstanding 50 per cent of Elecker. said: "The 915p is pie in tra Fleming, the fund managethe sky stuff. People will be concentrating on 786p. That is a credible figure." ment company that manages the Electra trust, from Robert Fleming, the investment bank, Directors yesterday pledged for £30 million.

Tempus, page 30



Sydney Gillibrand, left, chairman, and Peter Mason, chief executive, in front of a model of one of AMEC's latest developments

AMEC negotiates better return

BY PAUL ARMSTRONG

AMEC, the construction group, has started to reap the benefits of its move away from competitive tendering with a 50 per cent jump in profit before tax and ex-

The increase took profit on this basis to £71.4 million for 1998. Profits on asset sales in 1997 meant the result after exceptionals was up just 1.2 per cent at £69.2 million. The strong growth in negoti-

ated contracts, as opposed to those it tendered for, furthered AMEC's campaign to differentlate itself from the rest of the construction sector. Investors responded by marking up AMEC shares by 12 per cent to 238 p. The stock has run from 155p in the past two months. Peter Mason, chief executive, said that 60 per cent of the capital project work won by AMEC in the UK last year was

negotiated, bringing higher margins. Mr Mason said this

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THESUNDA

Can Gordon Brown's enterprise budget offer real benefits to British business or will it just be a bonanza for accountants? David Smith and a team of tax experts examine the chancellor's strategy

PLUS: How will your pocket be hit? Our Money team provides an expert guide to the winners and losers on savings, pensions and personal taxation, with tips on how to beat the budget

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

was part of the company's strategy to provide a one-stop shop supplying the full range of construction-related services, from finance and design to building ownership and management. Mr Mason said that there

not to apply for shares in the

buyback, as Electra attempted

were signs that some European companies wanted new headquarters built on this basis. Operating profit in the company's capital projects division

leapt 117 per cent to £20.6 million, although margins were still low at about I per cent. Mr Mason said these were expect-ed to improve as AMEC shift-

ed away from tendering.

AMEC's service businesses recorded a 24 per cent rise in profit to £38.3 million and its order book grew by 18 per cent to £880 million.

This was helped by the low oil price, which has encouraged petroleum companies to outsource much of their work. A final dividend of 4.15p was declared, taking the year's payout to 6.25p, up 25 per cent.

UB calls for law on labelling **GM** food

BY FRASER NELSON

UNITED BISCUITS, the food company that has just lost its chief executive to EMI, has called for the establishment of an international hallmark system to identify all genetically modified food.

The company, which makes McVitie's biscuits, said that the industry lacks a cast-iron guarantee that it is not buying ingre-dients derived from genetically modified (GM) crops. It said that, for the past 18 months, it has only used suppliers who say their ingredients are GM-free — but no one has been able to rule out traces of GM

food appearing in products. Eric Nicoli, who is to be replaced by Leslie van de Walle as chief executive, said: "At the moment, we're not required to say anything on the label. We are pushing for legislation to decide a sensible threshold above which GM food would be identified. We think GM food is safe, but if our customers don't want it, we'll try not to give it to them."

UB's underlying profit rose 4 per cent to £110 million for the 52 weeks to January 2. Re-turn on capital employed, which Mr Nicoli sees as the most important measure of its performance, rose by 1.8 points to 18.6 per cent.

After £30.8 million of excep-tional items, full pre-tax profit dropped to an expected £79.3 million (£90.4 million). The £150 million share buyback programme lifted earnings per share to 11.5p (11.1p).

> Crunch time, page 31 City diary, page 31

Alchemy in hotels deal

ALCHEMY PARTNERS, the venture capitalist, has joined forces with Greenwich Nat-West, the global debt markets division of NatWest Group, to launch what is thought to be Europe's first securitisation in the hotel sector. The £52 million securitisation of Paramount Hotels, which Alchemy acquired for £77 million last summer, will allow the compa ny to expand at a time of increasing consolidation.

Hurricane batters Cox Insurance

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

SHARES in Cox Insurance Holdings fell a further 16p to 15612p yesterday after the Lloyd's insurer published final results. This followed a profits warning in December.

Pre-tax profits before the amortisation of goodwill and the cost of buying syndicate capaci-ty fell from £20.4 million in the first nine months of 1997 to £19.8 million for the whole of 1998. Adjusted earnings per share declined from 13.1p to 12.2p for the same periods. The drop in profits was large-ly caused by arise in exceptional

claims in commercial underwrit-ing. A large claim from a Polish power plant combined with losses arising from Hurricane Georges in the Caribbean and continued losses on American extended warranties.

The company has hired a new chief executive for the commercial business remained tough.

Cox is paying a final dividend of 2.6p, making a year total of 35p, which compares with the 3.1p paid for the first nine months of 1997.

EXCHANGE RATES Sels 2.48 19.58 58.79 2.409 0.8407 10.85 5.13 8.72 9.53 2.854 449 12.23 109 13863 1.1466 6.23

cial business - Stephen Bungay from Boston Consulting. Michael Dawson, chief executive, said the outlook for the commer-

ing cousins on the high street by enjoying an 11.7 per cent likefor-like sales increase at Christmas, which made up for tough trading earlier in the year, induced by the poor weather. Likefor-like sales for 1998 grew by 4.1 per cent though acquisitions during the 12 months swelled sales to £75 million from £63

The Index-Tracking PEP

Source: Micropal-LGM, legal & General FTSE All-Share Index-Tracking PEP on an offer to led base based on all PEP charges with gross Income restricted from 01.11.95 Usince launch) to 01.03.09. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. From 00.04.99 tax credits on UK dividing distributions will only be table to be mediated in PEPs, a reading of the performance. able to be reclaimed in PEPs at a reduced mer of 10%. Both capital and income values may go drawn as well as up and you may not get back the amount arrested. Full written details are available on request. All extenses are a most to # \$1.03.99. The Government have announced that contributions can only be made to PEPs until April 1999. From that date a new too provinged savings webside, the individual Savings Account (EA) will be available a legal as General (Dreet) Linkels, Registered as England No. 270390, Registered Office, Temple Count II Queen Victoria street, London ECON 4TP Representative only of the lagal & General marketing group, members of which are regulated by the Personal Investment Audients and DIRO for the purposes of recommending advants on and selling life assurance and investment products bearing light & General's name.

81.45%* growth in just over 3 years from the All-Share Index-Tracking PEP

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Asda victory in medicine price war

ASDA scored a significant victory in its campaign to start price wars in the medicine market yesterday after the Office of Fair Trading won approval to hold a hearing into the matter. The Restrictive Practices Court will meet at the end of next year to decide whether to abolish the price-fix-ing system that allows drug manufacturers to control the price of non-prescription medicine. It will consider Asda's claim that this system represents a health tax that leads to £200 million of overcharging each year. This is countered by small chemists, who believe that 3,000 out of Britain's 12,000 pharmacies will be forced out of business if they have to compete with the supermarkets.

Asda's case was taken up three years ago by John Bridg-Asoa's case was taken up three years ago by John Bridgman. Director-General of Fair Trading, who asked for the matter to be decided by the Restrictive Practices Court three years ago. Mr Bridgman said yesterday: "This is good news for the consumers who have been forced to pay unrecessarily high prices for too long. The court agreed with me that the market has changed in the last 20 years with me that the market has changed in the last 29 years and it is time to look again at whether retail price maintenance is in the public interest." In 1970 it was decided that price-fixing was vital to protect small chemist shops from competing with supermarkets.

BBA meeting on VAT

THE British Bankers Association is to have an urgent meeting with Customs & Excise over changes to the VAT rules in the Budget which apply the tax to the outcome of many of the banks' back office functions. The BBA claims the change will cost the banks more than £75 million in extra tax. Leading appropriate that the change was contraing accountants have pointed out that the change was contra-ry to the Chancellor's comments in the Budget that he would not be widening the scope of VAT.

Phytopharm trials

PHYTOPHARM, the company developing medicines from plants, is to begin phase II trials of a product thought to have the potential to prevent cancer of the colon. Richard Dixey, chief executive, said: "This might be the tamoxifen for colon cancer" — a reference to the controversial Zeneca drug that US researchers believe can prevent women developing breast cancer. Phytopharm shares, up 104p to 2824p, have multiplied in value six times in 15 months.

BoS targets savers

BANK OF SCOTLAND has become the latest financial services company to exploit the increasing demand for long-term savings by launching its own life assurance, pensions and investments business. Edinburgh Fund Managers will handle investment management for the business on an actively managed basis, while Legal & General will provide index-tracking investment products. The new range of products will be known as the Bank of Scotland Investors Club.

Thomson-CSF pledge

THOMSON-CSF, the French defence electronics group, reported an expected 1998 loss of 6232 million (£155 million) but said it would be back in profit this year and promised big gains in operating profit from 2001. The losses arise from exceptional charges taken against restructuring aimed at cutting costs. Operating profits, struck before exceptionals, rose 7 per cent to £355 million. In January Thomson lost to British Aerospace in a bid bartle for the Marconi defence electronics subsidiary of GEC.

EBRD stays in Russia

THE European Bank for Reconstruction and Development promised yesterday that it would not quit Russia despite reporting huge year-end losses stemming from the country's financial meltdown. Steven Kaempfer, EBRD vice-president for finance, said the bank was investing for the long term. The EBRD said the Rus sian collapse had forced it to make provisions of 553.1 million ecus (£390 million), three times higher than the previous year. It reported an overall loss of 261.2 million ecus; operating profits rose.

BT takes £90m stake

BRITISH TELECOM made its first investment in Latin America with a 20 per cent stake in ImpSat, which is valued at £450 million. Sir Peter Bonfield, BT's chief executive, said BT was paying £90 million for its stake as a way of gaining access to big corporate customers in key cities in Brazil, Argentina and Mexico. The company, which has specialised in data, Internet and e-commerce services, will market Concert. BT's international services arm.

Qualceram advances

QUALCERAM, the bathroom furniture supplier based in Wick-low in the Republic of Ireland, said that, while its home market continues to grow, trading conditions in the UK are competitive. In the year to December 31, 1998, group sales rose 21 per cent to Ir £10.6 million J£9 million) and pre-tax profits rose 23 per cent to Ir E2.2 million. Earnings per share increased 18 per cent to Ir 14p. The company recommended a final dividend of Ir2.2p per share, lifting the full-year payout 10 per cent to Ir3.3p.

Wyevale enjoys growth

WYEVALE Garden Centres bucked the trend of their retailmillion. Pre-tax profits edged up 2 per cent to £9.3 million. The final dividend is 3.13p making a total of 7.7p (6.86p).

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The spectre of socialis

in the run-up to his ele September, emerged a rassingly out of si Schroeder's centre left s While Tony Blair has h ing towards Europe. Osk taine has played an in role in reminding those paying attention of just right to be cautious above up to the single currency. man Finance Minister concerned about his axe

Wass value

WASSALL, the consideration that is reinventing itself as an i vestment firm, estimated its v ue at 34lp a share yesterday almost twice its market price Chris Miller, chief each tive, said: "We are more and dent of adding value for ma-

the creation of Wassall in a lale Eighties " In October Wassall boug

holders than at any time sta

OM opts for £3bn listing

MEMBERS of Old Mile tual, the South African life assurance company, yesterday voted overwhelmingly in favour of shedding as manual surlion share listing in London and Johannesburg

(Marsin Baron wolco). Old Mutual which will be ranked fifth London-listed among life assurers, has 3.2 million policyholders, many of whom have never before owned shares. Fach will receive a menimum

of 200 shares. It hopes to win a place in the FTSE 100 index following other South African groups such as South African Brewer-ies. Old Mutual bought British stockbrokers Albert E. Sharp and Capel Cure Meyers last year.

Chorio as it re

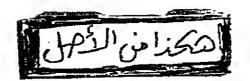
CHORION, the lessure

group formerly known as Trocadero, bounced back

into the black last year and will pay a dividend for the first time since John Conlan and Nick Tamblyn took the helm in July 1997.

The group reported a pre-tax profit of £3.02 million compared with a write-down-hit £31.6 million loss in 1997. Earnings per share reached 0.48p compared

with a loss per share of 6.80p. Shareholders will get a dividend of 0.1p reflect-



ust ten weeks into its existence and the euro has claimed its first finance minister's scalp. The removal of 'Red' Oskar had a dramatic effect on the new currency, which perked

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

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tsda victory in

up immediately. Oskar Lafontaine had consistently called for a weak euro and proved exceedingly successful in getting what he wanted. As he ranted on about the need for the European Central Bank to slash interest rates, he did for the euro just what our own dear Clare Short did for the Railtrack flotation price. If both individuals had been swishing black capes and dripping blood from ghoulish grins, they could hardly have scored higher on the fear factor.

The spectre of socialism frighters markets. Ms Short intimated that a new Labour Government would renationalise the railways, so drastically reducing the attractiveness of an investment in the Railtrack privatisation. Lafontaine, who had appeared to be largely in step with Schroeder in the run-up to his election last

man Finance Minister is rightly

September, emerged as embar-rassingly out of step with Schroeder's centre left coalition. While Tony Blair has been head-ing towards Europe, Oskar Laion-taine has played an invaluable role in reminding those who were tions consider whether they might not be more comfortable headquartered elsewhere. paying attention of just why it is right to be cautious about signing up to the single currency. The Ger-

No tears for this Oskar

nomic plight. Germany's economy shrunk in the last quarter of 1998; its industrial production fell by 7.8 per cent, a rather worse performance than even Japan managed.
Herr Lafontaine's prescribed solution was to hack down inter-

est rates and let spending rip. But one-size solutions do not fit every countries' problems and his demands caused consternation within the EU as well as without The European Central Bank, as independent as our own Bank in setting interest rates, may have been unmoved by Oskar's lamentations but there were some who feared that. had be been able to, he would have bludgeoned down the ECB door and set the rate himself. While he was worrying about interest rates, he failed to deliver the tax reforms for which German industry is crying out. The result has been to deter foreign investment from the country and to make some German organisa-

The head of the Federation of German Industries, Hans-Olaf Henkel, was moved to bleat that we find ourselves in the difficult situation of having someone who



COMMENTARY by our City Editor

knows nothing about business, who never studied economics, telling us what we should think about husiness and economics. That is a predicament in which That is a predicament in which people in many countries can find themselves. As they fully digest Gordon Brown's Budget, many in Britain may sympathise with Herr Kenkel. But they should ask themselves whether they would feel more comfortable with the European version.

Sir Peter sticks to hoarses for courses ir Peter Davis was nursing a sore throat yesterday but

a sore throat yesterday but even his hoarseness could not disguise his delight in his lat-est acquisition. Not so long ago, Sir Peter thought a bank or a building society would be the perfect complement to his business but good sense has prevailed. Old-fashioned financial institutions are lumbered with vast

property partialias. With the hugely successful launch of Egg, the Pru has demonstrated that heavy real estate costs are not a prerequisite of a successful financial services business. The banks are struggling to offload their un-wanted properties, the demand from breweries intent on opening yet another new drinking estab-lishment to trade under the banlishment to trade under the ban-ner "Counting House" or "The Vaults" having slowed of late. Today telephone banking is taking a growing share of the market and Internet banking is coming along behind. The mush-rooming of automatic telling machines in useful places such

as train stations and even - oh, what innovation - in Marks & Spencer stores renders most bank branches redundant.
But M&G brings new products and marketing expertise to the Pru and together they should be able to make the most of the increase in personal saving that they believe inevitable. The Isas

and Lisas and stakeholder pensions that are going to rake in the extra cash are not vouchers for heavy profits. The emphasis, un-derlined by the Chancellor again on Tuesday, is that these new products should be low-cost offerings. With Government intent on taking over from the Consumers' Association, and the FSA set to publish the equivalent of Which? guides to personal finance, margins on the new savings and pen-sions products are going to look a little thin.

The answer, reasons Sir Peter, lies in volume. That is what M&G will bring to the Pru, already di-gesting Scottish Amicable. Sys-terns will be combined, costs brought down and the result will be a boost to the bottom line.

The M&G name will remain.

Rather like the Pru, it seems that its reputation with the public has survived despite some apparent efforts to destroy it. The fund manager did not mis-sell, per-haps, but it did mismanage, and over several years its relative performance slouched.

But Michael McLintock has

been striving to rejuvenate the organisation, and there is a feeling in the City that he is winning. Certainly the Pru feels that it is buying M&G when it is "on the turn".

Arnault fashions Gucci coup

Thile the fashion editors concentrate on hem-lines and the extraordinary head-dresses that Alexander McQueen set atop his models. City editors are having much more fun watching the spat be-tween two fashion businesses. The dispute between LVMH and Gucci seems set to outlast Paris Fashion Week and could still be

going next season.

The two companies have now agreed that they should do the bidding of the Amsterdam court and start talking about how they could settle their dispute. The two sides seem likely to end up spit-ting pins at each other. Bernard Arnault, of LVMH, is not about to give up the 34 per cent stake he has acquired in Gucci and Gucci

clever wheeze of diluting his stake by doling out new shares to staff. But the crafty M Arnault has a record of coming out of such ap-parent impasses with a victor's

is refuctant to back track on its

smile. If he offers Gucci a solemn undertaking — and they would probably want it in triplicate and witnessed by lawyers — that he would not increase his stake in the business, Gucci would appear churlish if they did not at least listen to his contentions of why LVMH would be able to boost Gucci's profitability

Both sides are assembling the

arguments to demonstrate their cases. Superficially, Gucci's record seems to show that it does not need M Arnault's input. But the man who successfully held the Diageo deal to ransom should not be underestimated.

Straw's law

JACK STRAW says he will not take account of a DTI inspectors' report critical of Mohamed Al Fayed when deciding whether to give him citizenship: too much time has passed since the events of 1986. Mr Straw is following good precedent. It was the City's collective decision to draw a veil over an old DTI report, which said Robert Maxwell was unfit to run a public company, that ailowed the late MP to get his hands on all those pension funds. Now the DTI is looking into Maxwell's second coming.

Wassall puts value at twice market price

By PAUL DURMAN

WASSALL, the conglomerate that is reinventing itself as an investment firm, estimated its value at 341p a share yesterday almost twice its market price. Chris Miller, chief execu-

tive, said: "We are more confident of adding value for shareholders than at any time since the creation of Wassall in the late Eighties."
In October Wassall bought

OM opts for £3bn listing

MEMBERS of Old Mu-tual, the South African life assurance company. whelmingly in favour of shedding its mutual status in favour of a £3 billion share listing in Lon-don and Johannesburg

(Martin Barow writes).
Old Mutual, which
will be ranked fifth
among London-listed life assurers, bas 3.2 million policyholders, many of whom have never be fore owned shares. Each will receive a minimum of 200 shares.

It hopes to win a place in the FTSE 100 index following other South African groups such as South African Breweries. Old Mutual bought British stockbrokers Albert E. Sharp and Capel Cure Meyers last year.

TLG, the Thorn Lighting business, for £363 million, and it has also acquired a 9.3 per cent stake in BICC, the cables group. It was the cables indus-try that gave Wassall one of its most spectacular past successes, with its investment in General Cable of the US, which

produced a £278 million profit: However, the market has not welcomed the company's attempt to act as a private equity firm. Its shares have collapsed from 381p early last year to only 192p

The group's existing trading activities — which include DIY sealants, bottle tops and suitcases - maintained annual profits at £32.8 million (£32.1 million) in difficult trading conditions. Wassall said that, after stripping out currency, profits from continuing operations rose 12 per cent.

Pre-120x proms were Land million. The previous year's total was bloated by the gain on General Cable. A final dividend of 5.5p

leaves the total unchanged at 7.8p a share. Mr Miller said Thorn Lighting "has tremendous potential

and ahready looks like a great acquisition". In the final few months of the year it contributed £7.1 million of profits. Wassall has embarked on a wide-ranging European reor-ganisation of Thorn Lighting, and it plans to invest an addi-

next three years. The group said it still has substantial scope to make further acquisitions.

tional £30 million in it over the

Food and drink group says the worst of the Asian economic crisis is over



Spirited performance: Tony Greener, left, chairman of Diageo, and John McGrath, chief executive, reported that the outlook for the company was positive

Diageo remains optimistic

BY DOMINIC WALSH

DIAGEO, the Burger King restaurants to Gordon's gin group, said yesterday that the worst effects of the Asian economic crisis were now behind it and the general outlook was "pretty positive".

in the half-year to December 31, the group's UDV sprits and wine division saw a 19 per cent decline in profits in the re-gion, with volumes down by 30 per cent. However, Phil Yea, finance director, said: "In

recent months there has been a marginal improvement, albeit from a lower base." The Asian crisis, allied to un-

certainty in Latin America, were among the factors that contributed to a 12.5 per cent decline in Diageo's profits before tax and exceptionals to El.05 billion. Some E54 million of profit was lost from the sale of Dewar's whisky and Bombay gin to satisfy regulatory requirements after the merger of Guinness and GrandMet. However, underlying profparable basis and the group said it had achieved merger savings of £61 million during the period. Earnings per share excluding exceptionals were down 0.5 per cent to 20.5p but the interim dividend has been

lifted by 8 per cent to 7.8p. UDV reported a 4 per cent rise in operating profits to E589 million, with Europe and North America both seeing strong growth. Volumes for its top five brand/market combinations, where the bulk of mar-

keting investment is being chanelled, rose by 3 per cent. Total marketing spend was 16 per cent lower at £334 million. In the UK, Smirnoff vodka, Bell's whisky and Gordon's gin all declined.

Improved marketing at its Guinness brewing arm paid off with a 13 per cent rise in profits to £149 million, with draught Guinness volumes in the UK rising 3 per cent. How-ever, profits at Burger King were tlat as the closure of some of its US units counter-

Penauille Polyservices, repre-

to Amey's offer.

Brian Staples, chief execu-

would not lift its bid and

stake in Servisair to Penauille.

balanced a 3.5 per cent rise in

same-store sales.

The problems in Pillsbury's North American food business, where intense competition resulted in a 4 per cent volume decline, led to a 3 per cent drop in divisional profits to E263 million, compared with a 14 per cent uplift last year. Mr Yea said one-off factors such as higher cream costs would fade in the second half and trading was expected to improve.

Tempus, page 30

QMH to consider action on debts

BY DOMINIC WALSH

QUEENS MOAT HOUSES. the four-star hotel operator, is actively looking at ways of refinancing part of its E800 million debt mountain, although it is intent on avoiding issuing

fresh equity.
The debts have come down from £1.4 billion since QMH was on the brink of collapse in 1993, but a further refinancing of £180 million of senior-term debt was always inevitable be-fore the end of 2000. While issuing new shares is one of the options, the group is consider-ing accessing the European debt markets.

Andrew Coppel, chief executive, said: "The more progress we make, the more options be-come available. The equity route is not our preferred route and not at these prices. We've spent six years trying to avoid massive shareholder di-

Queens Moat yesterday reported a 71 per cent jump in profits before tax and excentionals in 1998 to £33.5 million from like-for-like sales up 6.4 per cent to £375.3 million. Trading profits in the UK rose 11.4 per cent, with room occupancy flat at 73 per cent and average room rates 5.2 per cent higher at £56.31.

Mr Coppel said that its businesses in Germany and The Netherlands had also performed strongly, and would continue to do so in 1999, although growth was slowing in the UK.

The protracted case for wrongful dismissal brought by four former directors, on which a judgment is expected soon, has so far cost the company more than £6 million.

Chorion pays dividend John Lewis adds as it returns to profit

BY DOMINIC WALSH

CHORION, the leisure group formerly known as Trocadero, bounced back into the black last year and will pay a dividend for the first time since John Conlan and Nick Tamblyn took the helm in July 1997.

The group reported a pre-tax profit of £3.02 million compared with a writedown-hit £31.6 million loss in 1997. Earnings per share reached 0.48p compared with a loss per share of 6.80p. Shareholders will get a dividend of 0.lp "reflect-

ing the substantial turnaround in the company's performance and the board's confidence in the future". The new bars division made a contribution of £2.1 million in the nine months since it was acquired by

Chorion, well ahead of ex-

pectations. Its £3 million Tiger Tiger venue, which opened in London's Haymarket in November, has traded so strongly that the group has accelerated plans to roll out the concept. Four new units in London are in the pipeline, and terms have been agreed for sites in Croydon, Manchester. Leeds and Birming-

Its intellectual property division, which owns the copyright to the works of Enid Blyton and Agatha Christie, lifted operating profits by 60 per cent to £3.2 million. A further 25 Noddy in Toyland programmes are now in production and Chorion has signed an agreement to develop the Noddy brand with BBC Worldwide.

to retail gloom

By Fraser Nelson

JOHN LEWIS took its turn to give warning about more hard times on the high street yesterday as it returned a 17 per cent decrease in annual profits. Sir Stuart Hampson, chair-

man, said the company had been badly hit by a retail downturn that had left its 23 department stores in the "doldrums". He said: This is a moment when it is pleasanter to look back than forward. This is a year for taking every week as ft comes. I foresee a sticky few

months ahead." Its department store sales were frozen at £L75 billion for the year to January 30. The 120 Waitrose supermarkets

(£1.67 billion). A 3.2 per cent increase in costs left trading profit at £225 million (£272 million) before a £33.5 million VAT refund. This left £89 million for its staff bonus, which averages at £2,280 per person.

saw sales rise to £1.73 billion

In the next few weeks, John Lewis department stores will start trading at the Bluewater shopping complex in Kent and Glasgow. Two further stores are under construction in Southampton and Solihull.

French trump Amey to bag Servisair

Servisair said Penauille had A FRENCH airport services company has trumped Amey received irrevocable undertakings to accept the bid from holders of 41.4 per cent of the shares. Brokers for Penauille Group's attempted hostile takeover of Servisair, the baggage-handling company.
Servisair said yesterday are understood to have sethat it had agreed to a cash ofcured another 7 per cent on the fer of 230p a share from stock market yesterday. Servisair shares closed

24½p higher at 231p.
John Willis, Servisair chairsenting a 15 per cent premium man, said Penauille's £94 miltive of Amey, an outsourcing group, said his company lion offer was significantly higher than Amey's bid and was fair value. planned to sell its 2 per cent

Penanille's offer represents a 98 per cent premium to the

price at which Servisair shares were trading shortly before it revealed in December that it

was in takeover talks. Servisair had rejected Amey's offer on the grounds that it failed to recognise the profit growth that would flow from the company's strong position in European mar-

Mr Willis said Servisair had spoken to several potential bidders in the past two months but added that he did not expect any other offers to

kets.

KEEP COMPANY INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS, **GET IT OFF YOUR DESK.**

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Pru's bid helps FTSE roar past 6,300 mark

THE clamber for shares on both sides of the Atlantic returned to fast-forward yesterday, sending share prices in London and New York soaring to record highs.

Although prices in the City closed ulf their best on the day. investors were clearly influenced by the opening gain of 163 points for the Dow Jones industrial average, which re-sumed its advance on the

The FISE 100 index finished 94.2 higher at 6,335.7, after briefly touching a high of 6,360.3. The FTSE 250 index rose 84.3 to lors were still on the lookout for value among quality second-line stocks. A total of I.3 billion shares changed hands.

Early gains were fuelled by further consolidation in the financial sector after Prudential Corpuration, whose chief executive is Sir Peter Davis, launched an agreed cash bid of £25 a share for M&G Group. up 662!:p at £24.50. The deal values the hind management group at £1.9 billion. Prudential was down 165:p at

Further consolidation is expected within the sector judging by the gains seen in Perpetual 412 :p to £40.42 : Edinburgh Fund Management, 42hp 10 355p. Aberdeen Asset Management, 1114p to 13214p, Brewin Dolphin, 20p to 550p, and Gerrard Group, 20p to 439p.

The bid for M&G is a reminder that timing is everything. Charles Bauer saw the price of Amvescap, where he is a director, climb 2712p to 646' :p yesterday, just a day af-ter he sold 443,000 shares at 620p. Fortunately, he still has 47.2 million, or 7 per cent, left. Another director, Gary Crum, also sold 150,000 shares at 620p and a further 250,000 at 665p, and now holds 33.8 million, or 5 per cent.

The banking sector was also thinking about consolidation in the wake of Banque Nationale de Paris's bid for rivals Paribas and Société Générale. Bardays climbed 79p to £18.93. Its name has been linked in recent weeks to the Pru. Gains were also seen in Northern Rock, 20sep to 542p. Lloyds TSB. 40p to 980p, and

Albright & Wilson held steady at 140 p after results earlier this week. The chemical specialist has a bid on the table of 130p from Albemarle



Jonathan Bloomer, left, Prudential finance director, and Sir Peter Davis saw Pru shares fall after the bid for M&G

of the US and now the speculators are waiting to see if Rhodia, the French company, will come back with an offer of as much as 180p a share.

Elsewhere in the sector, Kalun surged 1755p to 130p on reports that Total of France, the majority shareholder, may bid for the rest of the shares it does not already own. Laporte was chased up 47%p

FTSE 350

HOPES are growing that

this month's meeting of the

Opec oil ministers in Vien-

na will be able to thrash out

a new agreement on produc-

Shares of the oil compa-

nies have been building up

weeks convinced that a deal

BP Amoco was one of the

nies with a leap of 92p to

El0.2114. Shell also put on

33%p to 396%p after moving

to obtain permission to buy

a head of steam in recen

is there to be concluded.

tion quotas.

Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb

to 6321/2p ahead of results on Monday. Profits are likely to be uninspiring but the market will want to see what impact the new management has made. Scapa rose a further 24p to

11314p on revived talk of a bid. British Fittings advanced 8kp to 113%p after announcing it was in receipt of another bid approach. A management buyout team is said to be ready to make

back 5 per cent of its shares,

restructure its downstream

gas operations and make

disposals. There were also

gains for Enterprise Oil.

18%p to 321%p, Cairn Energy, 10p to 114%p, Lasmo, 15p to 135p, Ranger Oil, 20p to

2021sp, and Monument Oil

Credit Lyonnais, the bro-

ker, points to the price of

Brent crude at \$12 a barrel

Rival broker Credit Suisse

First Boston says that Shell

and Enterprise will benefit

most from any price rise.

& Gas, 44p to 424p.

month, the price was just 6 kp. Servisair continued to gather pace with a jump of 244p to 231p after finding itself in receipt of an offer worth 230p a share from Penauille, the French group. **CRUDE PRICE** This tops a bid of 200p a share already on the table from Amey, unchanged at 590p. Yorklyde stood out with a 3,500 3,000 rise of 6p to 57p. It has escaped FTSE All-share the levies being imposed on suppliers of cashmere garments by the US Government as part of the banana wars. Sources say the levy applies to suppliers of the garments,

rather than those companies that provide the material. ☐ GILT EDGED: The bond market saw falls across the yield curve in thin conditions. The resignation of Oskar Lafontaine, the German Finance Minister, came after the close of business in London. But traders say it could prove positive for bonds and equities.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt rose 35p to £116.54 on turnover of 27.000 contracts. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 rose 67p to £145.55. while Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was 13p better at £106.43.
□ NEW YORK: Oil s and optimism about the US economy drove the Dow Jones industrial average over the 9,900 mark. By midday the index was up 141.81 at 9,914.65.

Hong Kong: Amsterdam: 2950.5 (+ (9.1) Frankfurt 3302.18 (+24.54) Paris: tors say this latest offer could be worth up to 130p a share. Zurich: It was the first day of deal-7322.6 (+113.2) ings in Axon Group after a London: placing by WestLB Panmure, the broker, at 175p. The IT specialist opened at 205p and ___5493.3 (+84.3) ___3008.9 (+45.0) .2914.03 (+60.37) .2908.34 (+42.53) touched a high of 263p before settling at 254p, a premium of 79p. Dresdner Kleinwort Ben-_2934.4 (+37.42) son, the broker, says the group's rating compares favourably with its rivals, such as Diagonal, up 2½ p at £12.15. Cortecs finished lp firmer at 24p despite Glen Travers, a director, selling 100,000 shares. It reduces his total holding to 5.9 million, or 4.37 per cent.

MAJOR INDICES

The breakdown in takeover talks left Jarvis Porter nurs-RECENT ISSUES ing a loss of 8p at 75p. The paper and packaging specialist now intends to implement its Close Bros Dev VCT restructuring programme. Enhanced Zero Trust 100'• Speculative buying hoisted Gander Properties AIM-listed Stentor 8p to 26p in thin trading. Talk is that sever-al potential bidders are stalk-Jupiter Enhanced Inc 100 275 Luminar Warrants - 212 ing the shares, having seen the price of the loss-making company slump from a peak of 1961/sp since last October. Earlier this

,	Synstar	127	+	1
	RIGHTS	SÜ	Š	
	Brancote n/p (10) Oxford Biomedica n/p (15	1) 3	-	1
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this most pressing management issue must be resolved be-Water Hall
Jarvis Porter
Cox Insce
Towry Law
Elsevier was reflected in a 5 per cent rise in volumes.

TEMPUS Canary poised to fly CANARY WHARF is as much a bet on the behaviour of its larger tenants (Morgan Stanley. CSFB, HSBC) and the markets in which they operate as it is on the property values. If the banks flee to Germany or the financial markets implode, the Canary will go hungry. But given London's, and the Docklands'. headstart over Frankfurt, the Germans are un-

likely to eclipse us. The historical advantage is bolstered by the language barrier. Of more concern is the mood on Wall Street because that, more than anything, holds the key to whether there will be the demand from banks and brokers required to fill the five million plus square feet of space.
The attraction of Canary Wharf boils down

to your view of the value of future develop-ment. Canary Wharf's valuers came up with two figures. The traditional UK open market

value technique - which values the sites at their current worth - indicates the buildings not yet built are worth £622 million. But a USstyle discounted cashflow analysis of the hi-

style discounted cashflow analysis of the fire ture profits (including tax breaks) prices the "virtual" property at £1.5 billion.

To judge from the pricing of the float, the Canary's pre-float soundings of investors encountered resistance to any attempt to price in much of the development potential. Nor, crurially is there puttly in there in reflect the £400. cially, is there much in there to reflect the £400

million in enterprise zone tax breaks. This is good news. It leaves Canary shares conservatively priced and investors with plenty to play for. Institutional investors should certainly take a slice. Private individuals who are not being offered shares in the placing - should also buy, unless the stock races to an immediate, large premiuni.

Reed International

REED International lost nearly 6 per cent of its value yesterday. Perhaps this was unsurprising since the annual results were uninspiring and the outlook for the current year was sketched as being as flat as a pancake. But this was known, and Reed took its hammering in Decem-ber when the publisher issued a profits warning

No, yesterday's self-off was sparked by the lack of real

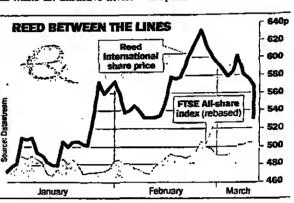
news. The near-6 per cent fall in the share price was exaggerated because shares in Reed the UK-quoted vehicle for the Anglo Dutch publisher called Reed Elsevier - have run up strongly since the New Year (and since it was tipped as a Tempus share of the year). But the non-appointment of a new chief executive did the damage. It sounds trite to state that

fore genuine progress can be made. But it is so. The recent share run shows there is potential, but potential without achievement can only be stretched so far.

The longer it takes to find a replacement the more the competition will erode Reed's market position. But professional publishing and electronic media make an attractive invest-

ment proposition. If Reed appoints soon, and the person is a sensible choice, the shares will rebound.

On the assumption that it will eventually find the right person, yesterday's plunge provides a chance to buy. In recent weeks the hopes may have got over egged, but they remain well founded. There is a future



Diageo

THE sheer size and geographical spread of Diageo's four businesses makes interpreting its figures an invidious pursuit, But the positives outweigh the negatives, albeit marginally. Even in Asia, where spirits and beer took a hammering, the tide appears to have turned.

The main issue centres now on tackling Pillsbury, the performance of which gives cause for concern in the face of intense competition in its US heartland. Diageo's biggest division, spirits and wine, lifted profits by 4 per cent, with North America up an impressive 17 per cent. A 3.5 per cent rise in same-store sales at Burger King counterbalanced a one-off £6 million hit from the closure of 17 company-managed units in crease in marketing investment in the Guinness brand

Adam Spielman at Salo-mon Smith Barney has pencilled in earnings per share of 34.7p, putting its shares on a multiple of 21 times. Although fears that LVMH may sell its 11 per cent stake have restrained share price growth, rapidly improving cashflow and a string of disposals make share buybacks

almost inevitable. Hold. Electra

EVEN the most gung-ho investors should now look for an exit from Electra Investment Trust, for at least part

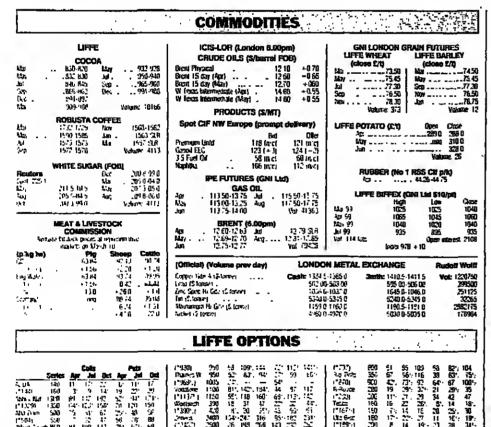
of their holdings. There is a chance — emphatically endorsed by the Electra board — that those who hang on will receive more than the 786p that was laid on the table yesterday via a tender offer.

But beware Greeks bearing taking on to fund the tender will be a mighty millstone going forward. The challenge in realising cash from unquoted investments should not be underestimated, Moreover, economic conditions in the fiveyear liquidation period may not be as conducive to unquoted sales as they are at present. Electra shares will drop to a big discount as soon as the tender is complete.

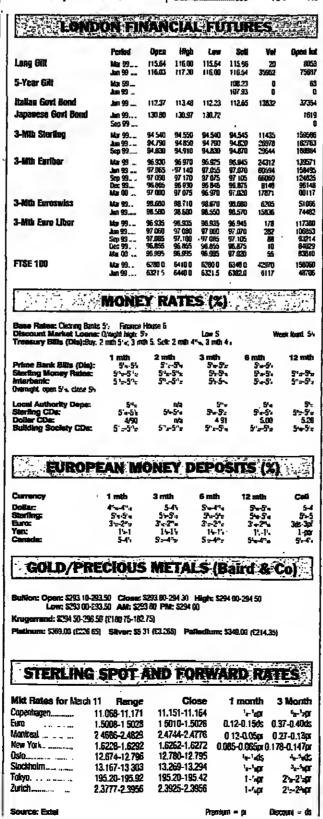
The best outcome for Electra investors would be to see 3i come back with an offer at or near 786p. But given 3i's reticence thus far it seems unlikely that they will pay that

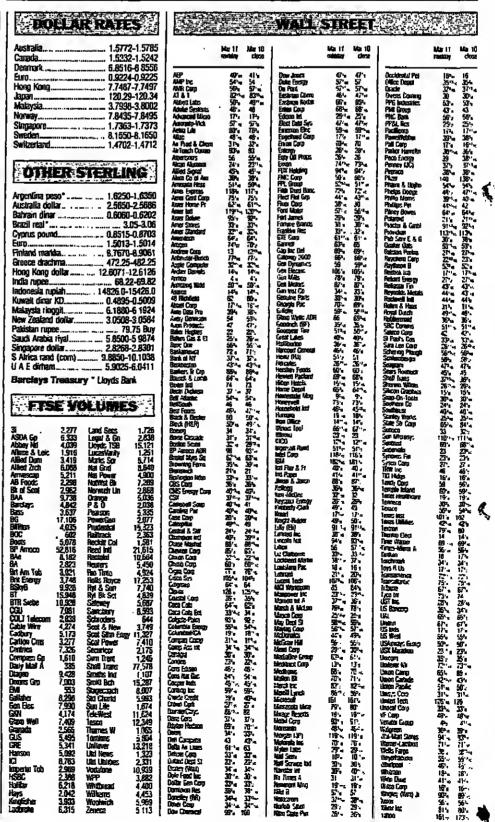
Cautious investors should sell in the market now. Electra stock has performed well and shareholders should be sitting on a nice profit. If you are more adventurous you may care to stay involved. but be sure to tender for at least your full entitlement in the tender offer. There could be a tasty long-term upside side risk means that you

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

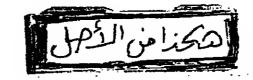


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Wembley deal was a funny old game

Jason Nissé on the winners and losers in the battle for the Twin Towers

hen the name Wembley is mentioned, emotions run high People remember Bert Trautmann struggling on in goal for Manchester City with a bro-ken neck in the 1956 FA Cup Final, Geoff Hurst scoring a hat-trick for England in the 1966 World Cup final or Gareth Southgate's penalty being saved in the Euro 96 semi-final. That is why, when business decisions come to be made about Wembley Stadium, normal rules of commerce

seem to go out of the window. Shareholders in Wembley plc, the company which has owned the stadium for the past decade-and-a-half, yester-day voted to sell their prized as-set to the English National Stadium Development Company (ENSDC) — a subsidiary of the Football Association — for £103 million. The decision was greeted with joy at Lancaster

which has been a bit short of good news, having seen the reigns of its chairman, chief executive and national team manager all end in quick succession. The FA has always said the redevelopment of Wembley is key to England's bid to host the 2006 World Cup and has threatened to take England matches away from the stadium if the compamy did not sell.

But the deal was opposed by three of Wembley's non-executive directors - Roger Brooke, the highly respected chairman of Candover Investments; Peter Mead, the founder of the advertising group Abbot Mead Vickers and deputy chairman of Millwall; and Jarvis Astaire, the promoter and agent who has been in-volved with Wembley for long-er than anyone involved in the

story. They argued that it made no sense for a company that owns a whole series of assets around the stadium - inchiding an indoor arena and a conference centre -- to sell the centrepiece and give up any rights to managing the stadi-um. Wembley would end up like a doughnut with a hole in the middle, as it were.

The trio approached two potential bidders, Enic, the sports investment company, and SFx, the US stadium management group. Both wanted Wembley to keep an interest in the stadium, even if it was only on a management contract. They believed the £150 million budgeted cost of rebuilding the stadium - a move that would involve demolishing the famous twin towers - looked excessive. The bids these companies said they might make for Wembley were in excess of 400p a share. Wembley's share price yesterday fell 114p to 3524p after the sale was approved. What amazes the three rebel

directors is that Wembley shareholders were prepared to vote for a deal that was worth less money to them than other potential transactions. And it was not merely legions of foot-ball-mad small shareholders who could be forgiven for being motivated by a sense of national duty - who voted against their financial interest. The deal was pushed through by two of the UK's largest fund managers - Phillips & Drew and Schroders Investment Management - who own 35 per cent of the compa-

ny between them. Mr Brooke is incensed by what has happened. He argues that what has happened

face for all those people who have been campaigning for years for greater shareholder democracy and better corpo-rate governance. "We looked at the agreement, saw it was flawed and wanted it renegoti ated," says Mr Brooke. "We looked to the institutional in-

vestors for support and they were not there." At key moments in the baltle, Mr Brooke felt that the three non-executives were isolated. When they tried to put forward a vote of no confidence against Claes Hultman, the Wernbley chairman, they found it needed a unanimous vote of all directors. When they tried to convince certain leading shareholders that they should reject the offer, their ar-

guments fell on deaf ears. "This does not bode well for the future of corporate govern-ance," says Mr Brooke. "If in-stitutional investors ask directors to take an independent view, they have to respect the view they take."
P&D and Schroders were

not keen to talk about the battle openly yesterday. However, it is understood that they felt Wembley had little choice but to sell to the ENSDC because the stadium's largest customer is the Football Association.

Messrs Brooke, Mead and Astaire are now going to resign from Wembley's board - although not immediately. They want to ensure that the company secures a good slate of new non-executives to try to keep Mr Hultman and his colleagues in some sort of check. Mr Hultman, though, is keen to tell anyone who will listen that the trio may have taken this battle into extra time, but the final whistle is about to be

termination of the banks and

insurers to expand into invest-

ment - whatever the price -

suggests the days of independ-

ent fund managers are num-bered. Many of the bigger and

better firms have already been

swallowed up: Gartmore by

NatWest, Mercury Asset Man-

agement by Merrill Lynch, Ju-

piter by Commerzbank and

Henderson by Australian Mu-

than £4 yesterday. Like the Es-

mée Fairbairn trust, Martyn

Arbib, Perpetual's founder and

chairman, retains a dominant

shareholding. Now in his late

tifties, he is said to spend an in-

creasing amount of time at his

them all himself. Perhans he

should start a charitable trust.

ittle wonder, then, that

shares in Perpetual,

the star firm of the

1990s, jumped by more

tual Provident.

Crunch time for UB's new

Fraser Nelson reports on the man

hen Napoleon was choosing his gener-als, the first quesoon he would ask was "has he luck?" His idea was that, regardless of education, lucky generals tended to win

United Biscuits has thosen to replace Eric Nicoli, its EMI-bound chief executive, with Leslie van de Walle for exactly this reason. "This man is our version of Arsene Wenger, the Arsenal manag-er," Colin Short, the UB chairman, said yesterday. "He is also, in Napoleonic

terms, a very lucky general."

M van de Walle's CV does
nothing to contradict this assertion. He was born and raised in Paris, and his luck began when spent his French national service in South Carolina selling French ex-ports to the Americans. "I had completed an MBA," he says. "When you have an MBA, you have two options in the Army: you can do military service or commerce. 1 am of very slight build, I can-not run very fast and I'm not a good shot. So they decided I would be of better use to my

country trying to sell French bread and French hats." His first industry job was in the sales and marketing department of Danone. From there he moved to Cadbury Schweppes, where he was swiftly promoted through the ranks of marketing director, commercial director and busi-

ness development director. In 1994 he joined United Biscuits as head of its European snacks division. Within a year, he was head of continental Europe and in March last year he was promoted to the UB board as head of McVities.

home in Barbados. Roger Cornick, Perpetual's Since joining UB he has deputy chairman, rejects the idea that the firm might be been a Londoner. "I've lived in London for four-and-awilling to surrender its indehalf years, but you wouldn't pendence. However, he ac-knowledged: "If someone think it from my accent. I live in the same place all the comes along and offers you a silly price, you have a fiduci-French live in London -South Kensington. My chilary duty to shareholders to dren go to the French school take it seriously."

Silly price or not, the Esmée Soon after joining UB, Mr Fairbairn trust is not com-Nicoli began grooming him plaining. It will receive £625 to become chief executive. UB asked me if I would be million. This will bolster funds to make grants to support arts and heritage, education, the eninterested some time ago. For the last three years, I started going in with them to the results. But it is one thing vironment, social welfare and social and economic research. John Fairbairn himself will reto be prepared for a job and ceive £11 million for his stake, another to actually do it." though he says he did not in-Aged 43, he now faces an herit these shares, but bought

enormous task. Over the past few years UB has

crashed from being a £2.2 billion giant to one of the worst performers in London, worth just £858 million. It is accused of being an inefficient colossus that relies on mature, increasingly healthconscious markets that are already buying all the biscuits they want.

So what is to be done? His

sheet that Mr Nicoli has been singing from - and for this, M van de Walle makes no apology. "I think one of my key words will be conothe right things."

saved £10 million of costs on a division making £20 million of profit from £450 mil-

on capital, is likely to be the standard by which shareholders will judge him. But tions about the biscuit market, seems ready to give him the benefit of the doubt. "LIB needs to keep cutting costs. ised this by appointing van de Walle," said one analyst. And is he lucky? "I am lucky because t have a beautiful wife and two lovely

Frenchman

given the task of lifting United Biscuits out of the market mire

anwer is simple: same again. The summary of my strategy is this: take cost out of the business and spend money supporting the main brands," he says. "Size is important, but the health of a company is measured by return on capital." This is the same hymn

nuity. The business is in good shape and we are doing Cost-cutting is his speciality. He has just emerged from closing down a factory in France (a process, he ex-plains, that "takes ages and about ten lawyers") - and

ultiply this around the United Bis-cuits empire and you have what should be the magic of M van de Valle.

But then there is the issue of UB's shareholder value and its ever-decreasing share price, now less than half the 400p level it reached four years ago. His attitude to this decline

has a louch of the Eric Canto-nas. The issue with the share price is that the price is the price. The market has taken the view that UB shares are worth 188p. I would buy shares at that point, but it's a personal decision." But share price, not return

and they seem to have realdaughters and business has been good to me as well. Up to now, at least."

How M&G attracted an offer that it just could not refuse

Paul Durman

reports on the transformation

that attracted

Prudential's generous bid

or his hour

- Constitution

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ity takeover docu-ments routinely include sections for the acquiring company and its target to explain their motives for entering into a deal. Even by the coy standards of such documents, M&C Group's formal comments vesterday were unusually evasive about its real reason for recommending the £1.9 billion offer from Prudential Corporation. But it scarcely had to spell it out the life insurer is paying a shedload of money for Britain's

oldest unit trust company. John Fairbairn, nephew of M&G's founder and the chairman of the Esmée Fairbairn Charitable Trust, which still owns a third of M&C, was more plain-speaking. "The price," he said, "is very, very good." Independent observers agreed. "It's an extremely high price," said Roman Cizdyn, an analyst at Merrill Lynch. Concern that Prudential has overpaid prompted its shares to fall by 2 per cent in a strongly

rising market. Prudential's offer of £25 a share is more than two-and-a-half times M&G's low during the crisis in world markets last autumn. The Pru is paying the equivalent of 10 per cent of the £18.5 billion of savings that M&G manages — a very high multiple by historical standards. To put il another way. the deal puts a £1.9 million brice on the head of each of M&G's 1,000 staff.

This is a personal triumph for Michael McLintock, who is not 38 until later this month but has led a shake-up of M&G over the past two years. When he took over as managing director. M&G was in the unfamiliar position of being unpopular. Investors and inde-



M&G's reputation sagged to such an extent that even Lord Lawson of Blaby, the former Chancellor, failed to tempt investors

were shunning its funds. A few beadlines from The Times tell the tale: "Performance left wanting at M&G", "A strategy of poor value for investors", "Can M&G come back?".

For years M&G was regarded as one of the most solid and dependable companies in the industry it created. Its investment funds — which eschewed the racier names favoured by younger rivals - might not be at the very top of the performance tables, but they had delivered consistent long-term results. The company's dull but effective press and poster ad-vertising hammered home the message that investing in shares produced much better returns than leaving your money in a building society.

The growth in its funds through the 1980s and early 1990s was built on the value investment philosophy. It sought out shares that were cheap on the basis of their assets or earnings, and laid particular emphasis on those paying high dividends. But, as Phillips & Drew and other value disciples know to their cost. in the mid-1990s this approach ceased to work. Investors placed an increasing premium on growth stocks in areas such as pharmaceuticals and telecommunications, and turned their backs on the small com-panies in older industries

where M&G had so much of its money. M&G performance sagged badly and its reputation went with it. The extent of the damage became painfully clear when the firm launched a high-income personal equity plan that drew only £20 million of new money despite it being backed by expensive television advertising featuring Lord Lawson of Blaby, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer. In its heyday M&G could attract ten times as much money into new funds al-

most without trying. Mr McLintock set about changing M&G's tried but failing methods. A profusion of similar funds was rationalised. A market-tracking fund was introduced - anathema to dyed-in-the-wool stock pickers. And although the fundamental value approach was retained, it was modified to ensure that the whole of M&G's business would not again be exposed to a change in investment fashions.

t the same time, Mr McLintock was under pressure from the Esmée Fairburn trust. As one of Britain's wealthiest charities, it had decided it could no longer justify having all its money tied up in a single company and was looking for an opportunity to diversify its investments. With such a large stake in M&G effectively up for sale, the fund manager's independence was increas-

ingly called into question. Mr Fairbairn rejects the notion that Mr McLintock was given an 18-month ultimatum to turn the firm around. He acknowleges that there was an

unspoken deadline because of

the two have notched up in-

volving incorrect pricing or ad-

vertising. The earliest dates

Bugged STILLdown at the Wharf, else-

where in the prospectus there

is a warning about the millen-nium bug, and a long descrip-

tion of the work carried out so

far debugging the security sys-

tems, the lifts and whatever.

"our desire to find an escape route. He asked for some time because M&G needed a revamp. They've done a very M&G is not out of the woods

yet but sentiment has im-proved lan Millward, investment marketing manager of Chase de Vere, said: They talk a very, very convincing story. Their performance is no longer as bad as it was. The jury's still out." Although the firm suffered

another outflow of funds to investors last year, yesterday it said it is enjoying strong net sales of retail unit trusts.

The justification for the price Prudential is paying is the belief that an increasing proportion of the British workforce will have to make their own savings for the future. M&G's expertise in unit trusts and Peps will allow it to expand the range of products it can offer to its customers.

Tarnished or not, M&G remains a strong brand, and the price recognises the scarcity

Ad enough

AN END to the "Dinnergate scandal involving Saatchi & Saatchi and the New Zealand Prime Minister, Jenny Shipley, which has gripped that country since Kevin Roberts. Saatchi's chief executive, had dinner with her.

Saatchi then won a massive increase in work from the New Zealand Tourist Board. I learn that Shipley, like all good politicians, has wriggled out of it. But Saatchi has been fired for coming up with proposals that "required a level of funding outside our budget". Teach you not lo be so greedy.

> MARTIN WALLER city.diary@the-times.co.uk





Misconduct

ONE fund manager faces a nervous ten-day wait, be-cause Nicholas Hely-Hutchin-son, of Singer & Friedlander, makes his debut as a conductor at Clifford Chance, the solicitors, on March 23. It is part of a programme by London Musici, a small orchestra that is embarking on a series of concerts at various City in-

The project is run by Mark Stephenson, a musician and conductor who realised that many of the spectacular buildings scattered around the Square Mile were ideal for music, and that there were plenty



Mozart: musical genius to

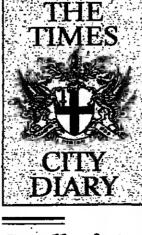
of amateur conductors availa ble too.

Hely-Hutchinson is the first such. He will receive coaching from Stephenson to make sure he is up to scratch and then debut with part of Mozart's Eine Kleine Nachtmusik. "If this works, it will be a tri-

umph of enthusiasm over talent," he says, admitting only to playing piano "modestly" up to now. London Musici so far has limited itself to low-key events but is about to sign a deal with a big City institution. Expect them at your local atrium soon.

A TELLING vignette at United Biscuits. Leslie van de Walle, incoming chief execu-tive, is asked if there will be any more board changes. Eric Nicoli, whom he is replacing, starts shaking his head. Colin Short, chairman, chips in to say, yes, there will be new blood among the non-executives. Nicoli stops shaking his head and starts nodding in-

Nicoli is, of course, joining EMI, Long-suffering UB share-holders may be interested to learn his musical tastes tend towards the blues. Woke up this morning/My share price was way down on the floor.



Smallprint

EMBARRASSING, the things you have to admit when you floai a company. Tucked away at the end of the Canary Wharf prospectus is the news that the company may be prosecuted by the Health and Safe-Executive. This is over the death of an employee of a subcontractor last March who fell from a steel staircase while not wearing a safety harness. ... Of rather less import, but

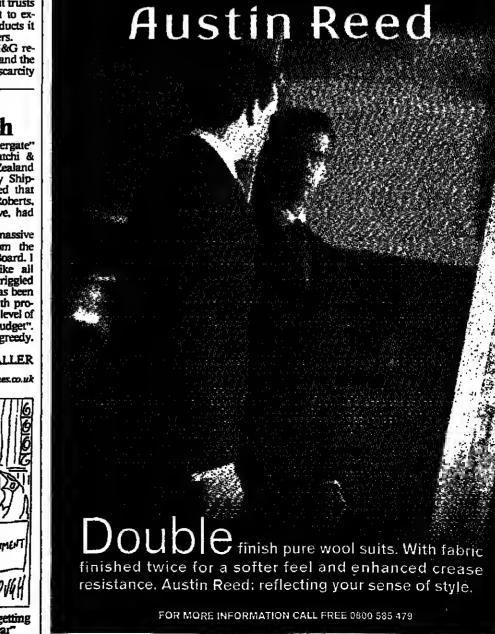
showing just how ludicrously exhaustive the disclosure requirements have become, is the entry for Sir Martin Jacomb, the senior non-executive. He is a director of both Marks & Spencer and The

Telegraph, and the document duly lists four minor offences

More than £500,000 spent upgrading the core financial system, for example, some of this on bug catching. At the end of the note is the following: "There can be no assurance that the steps taken ... will successfully elimi-

nate or minimise vulnerabilities of its software and syslems," or that any problems will not have a "material adverse effect on Canary Wharf. I ask what the point is of inserting such a meaningless piece of reassurance to investors. The reply is curt: "Lawyers."

JEFF HAMBLIN, chief executive of the British Tourist Authority, used to run the US office. He has recalled some of the odder questions from potential visitors to this country. Such as "When is the Edinburgh Festival on in Londoπ?" "When is the next performance of the Piccadilly Circus? And my favourite: "Are the Cotswolds open on Sundays?"



Rexam to complete disposals by year end

By Paul Armstrong

million) for 1998.

ficulties in Asia and Brazil had

declared, leaving the year's

of the remaining non-strategic assets would leave Rexam

with packaging operations in food, beverage, health and

beauty products and a coded

The surplus from these dis-posals will, he said, be used to fund bolt-on acquisitions in

these sectors rather than one-

But Mr Börjesson warned

investors that they should not

expect future growth rates of

10 or 20 per cent, saying that the packaging industry offered steady but stable returns.

"A couple of per cent growth

year after year is what you can expect," he said. There is

growth in packaging, but it is not the magnitude of telecom-

Rexam shares closed 2p low-

Börjesson: bolt-on deals

munications."

er at 2021/p.

film and papers division.

off major purchases.

Mr Börjesson said the sale

REXAM is set to finish shed- ic about the likely proceeds. ding its non-core assets by the end of this year, raising a further "several hundred million pounds" in the process, Rolf Börjesson, chief executive,

said yesierday. Mr Börjesson said Rexam planned to sell its printing operations and most of its building and engineering interests as the last stage of its 21/2-year campaign to focus solely on paper and packaging. He would not be more specif-

Total to buy out Kalon

BY MARTIN BARROW

SHARES in Kalon Group, the UK paintmaker, rose 17½p to 130p yesterday after the company revealed that Total, the French oil and chemicals group, was consider-ing taking full control of the business.

Total owns 63 per cent of Kalon, the legacy of a 1995 deal in which Kalon merged with Euridep. Total's paint arm.

Under the original deal, Total made a cash iojection of £61 million to acquire a controlling stake in the merged venture. At the heart of the agreement was a plan to cut costs and improve the efficiency of the business. particularly in France.

Kalon shares peaked at 193p last year, but slumped to just 85p in October, reflecting difficult trading conditions. In 1997 the company earned pre-tax profits of £45.1 million on turnover of £472 million.



taken their toll of several of its operations and trading so far this year had followed the patlern of late last year.
A final dividend of 8p was

SIG, Europe's top supplier of insulation productions, struck a cautious note yesterday, saying that the UK market is likely to come under further price pressure and the German market will re-

Meggitt

remains

upbeat

By Adam Jones

MEGGITT, the aerospace

and oil industry engineer, yes-

terday said that it was well equipped to cope with a likely

Demand from Boeing, a cus-

tomer for Meggitt seals and

cockpit clocks, is expected to

peak this year. Mike Stacey,

the Meggitt chief executive.

fall in orders from Boeing.

main difficult (Robert Lea writes). For 1998 the Sheffield-based company — led by Bill Forrester, above, the chief executive - reported pre-tax profits of £37.5 million, up £2.1 million on turnover up

18 per cent at £795 million. Earnings per share were 20.1p (20p), while the final dividend is 5.6p, making a total of 8.4p, a rise of over 7 per cent. The shares, weak of late, rose 2p to 181p.

European sees shares jump as

BY DOMINIC WALSH

SHARES in European Leisure jumped more than 25 per cent yesterday after the cue sports and nightclubs group un-veiled the terms of its planned merger with Allied Leisure, the ten-pin bowling and Burger King restaurants operator.

said orders from small jet makers, plus military aircraft business, would still be lucrative. He said the low oil price would mean a quiet year for Heatric, which makes heat exchangers for the oil and gas industry. Meggitt can afford to spend up to £50 million on acquisitions in areas such as

aerospace. Meggitt was announcing 998 profits of £35.4 million, up from £31.5 million in 1997. Sales rose 11 per cent to £293.9 million. Diluted earnings per share rose from 9.3p to 10.2p. The final dividend is 3.53p, making S.ISp for the year, up 10 per cent on last year.

offer is unveiled

Although the deal is being couched as a merger, in pracdce it will involve Allied acquir-ing its rival for £35.4 million and Allied's directors assuming the top jobs. The combined group will have a market capitalisation of £68.1 million, with European shareholders emerging with 52 per cent of the

Under the terms of the offer, European shareholders will receive 361 new Allied shares for every 100 shares held bluing European at about 99m a share

— a premium of 46 per cent to
the price before the two parties admitted they were in talks on

February 22. European's share price reacted with a 19p rise to 921/p, while Allied was unchanged at 271/2p.

Neil Goulden and Martin Scott, respectively chief executive and finance director of Allied, will assume the same posts in the merged board. Their counterparts at European, Ian Rock and Patrick Hooper, are expected to have their two-year contracts paid off. The chairman will be Victor Steel, currently chairman of European.

In the half-year to December 31, European reported a rise in operating profits from continuing operations from £3.19 million to £3.31 million. and the interim dividend is 1.4p (1.25p), in the same period. Allied lifted operating actifits from £2.21 million to £2.53 million. The dividend is 0.38p (0.35p).

Gokal loses appeal

By SAEED SHAH

ABBAS GOKAL, the Pakistani shipping tycoon, lost his appeal yesterday to overturn his conviction for the fraud that led to the spectacular collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International.

Lord Justice Christopher Rose, in a ruling at the Court of Appeal, said the evidence that saw Gokai, 62, sent to prison in 1997 for 14 years on two counts of conspiracy was overwhelming" and that he was at the heart of a highly sophisticated fraud "with international consequences of great gravity".

Gokal had been found guilty of syphoning \$1.2 billion out of BCCl. Gokal's Gulf Group, a Middle East shipping company, was the biggest borrower from BCCI. Gokal appealed on grounds of how he was brought into UK jurisdiction, having been extradited from Germany after being arrested in 1994 in Frankfurt, as his flight from Pakistan to the US stopped for refuelling.

A SESINESS ROUNDUP

EU cuts £8m from **British Steel fine**

A £22.4 MILLION line imposed on British Steel by the European Commission was reduced by more than £8 million by European Court judges yesterday. The fine, imposed in 1994 for British Steel's involvement in a price-rigging cartel, was by the far the biggest individual penalty out of a total of £72.8 million in fines imposed on 17 European steelmakers.

The European Court of First Instance, which deals with legal challenges to EU competition laws, upheld the Commission's action in fining the steel cartel. It rejected counter-claims that the Commission itself was implicated in market rigging, but agreed to cut the fines. British Steel's £22.4 million penalty was cut to £14 million. The fines were imposed :1fter a Commission inquiry into the EU market in steel beams. Brussels declared that 17 seel firms were operating an illegal cartel, engaging in price fixing, market rigging and exchanging confidendal information. The second-highest fine, of £8.5 million, was imposed on a French steel beam manufacturer.

German bank raided

POLICE have raided the head office of HypoVereinsbank, Germany's second-largest bank, in an investigation into the financing of its property investments. The Munich prosecutor launched the inquiry into real estate and accounting irregularities last October, shortly after HypoVereinsbank announced a DM3.5 billion (£1.25 billion) write-off for overvalued assets. These assets were general by Hypo-Bank which massed with Versionbank in follows. owned by Hypo-Bank, which merged with Vereinsbank, its fellow Munich bank, last year. The dispute has cast a shadow over Germany's biggest banking merger in postwar history.

Davis Service ahead

DAVIS SERVICE GROUP, the laundry and HSS tool-hire company, lifted pre-tax profits for 1998 by 25 per cent, before exceptional items, to £55.2 million on turnover of £407.9 million on turnover of £407.9 million of £407.9 mill lion, up 13 per cent. A final dividend of 8.5p, up from 7.6p, makes a full-year payout of 12.6p (11.33p). Davis said that forecasts for 1999 were difficult because of its range of activities. which are dependent on customer spending that is, in turn, determined by the economy, though current indications are good. The shares rose 25p to 45lp, near their record high.

Alcatel plans job cuts

ALCATEL, the French telecoms group, plans to cut 12,000 jobs worldwide over the next two years to achieve cost savings of about £200 million. Serge Tchuruk. Alcatel managing director, announced the cuts along with 1998 results, which showed net profit surging to €2.34 billion (£1.6 billion) from €711 million in 1997. Many of the job losses will be in the US where the group is to shut its Alcatel Data Networks unit. The company's share price plunged almost 40 per cent in a single day last September when M Tchuruk said 1998 results would be worse than expected.

Hemingway profit dip

HEMINGWAY Properties yesterday said that the fall in interest rates makes property a "very good" asset class for investment. However, despite reporting net assets per share up 8 per cent to 55.1p for the year to December 31, 1998, shares in the property investment company yesterday stood at 25½p. up 2½p on the day but still off their 12-month high of 49½p. Pre-tax profits fell to £5.2 million, from £7.8 million, because of reduced property sales. A final dividend of 0.47p per share raises the total payment for the year by 10 per cent to 0.67p.

Lamont's lament

FALLING demand, disrupted production and the cost of laying off staff resulted in a drastic fall in profits of Lamont Holdings, the Belfast linen and carpets group. Operating profits came in at just £451,000, against £7.2 million, last year on turnover down by more than 10 per cent at £83 million. Earnings per share, boosted by a property disposal, came in at 4.43p (20.01p). The total dividend for the year falls to 3.65p, from 12.8p. The shares dived 7½p to 51p having fallen about 60 per cent in the past 12 months

More misery at Molins

THE tale of woe at Molins, the maker of machinery for the tobacco and packaging industries, continued yesterday when, just ten weeks into its new financial year, the company said that it was unlikely that it would be able to match last year's operating profit levels. Reporting losses for 1998 of £6.6 million after restructuring charges of £15.8 million, Michael Orr, chairman, said that with little demand for tobacco machinery, 1999 operating profits would be less than £9.1 million.

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Travis Perkins says housing will pick up

TRAVIS PERKINS, the builder's merchant, expects buyers market this year (Saeed Shah

Tony Travis, the company's chairman, said: "Most builders expect to see a rising trend in new house sales. The reduction in interest rates that began last October has not yet

though there are signs that buyers are returning." Travis Perkins lifted 1998 pre-tax profits by 22 per cent, to £60.5 million, on sales up by 12.1 per cent, to £623 million. The year's dividend is 12.1p, up from 11.0p. The shares rose 22½p to 466p.

The company's operating margin rose to 9.9 per cent, from 8.5 per cent, last year.

Cattles to expand on high street

By Robert Lea

CATTLES, the consumer credit group, is aiming to expand on the high street, taking the place of the retreating retail banks, in an attempt to produce 20 per cent growth this year to match last year's prof-

The Yorkshire company is expanding from its roots in weekly door-to-door credit collecting, by opening its Welcome branches at a rate of one a week to try to build a nation-

wide network over five years.

Io 1998 the company made pre-tax profits of £47.7 million against £39.9 million excluding prior-year exceptional gains. Eddie Cran, chief execu-tive, said: "Cattles is a growth story. The market expected growth of 15 to 20 per cent. That is what we delivered and that is what we are aiming for

Earnings per share came in at 24.3p against 27.8p. Total receivables in the year grew by more than 40 per cent to £487 million, while provisions for bad debt rose from £18 million to £28 million.

The company is offering one new share for each one held in a bonus issue to halve the share price, in a bid to make the stock more marketable. The shares have raced up from about 200p two years ago to more than 800p last month. Yesterday they were unchanged at 760p. The final dividend of 7.9p (6.55p) makes a total of 11.8p, a rise for the year of 20 per cent.

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and at the registered office of the Company in England;

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12 March 1999

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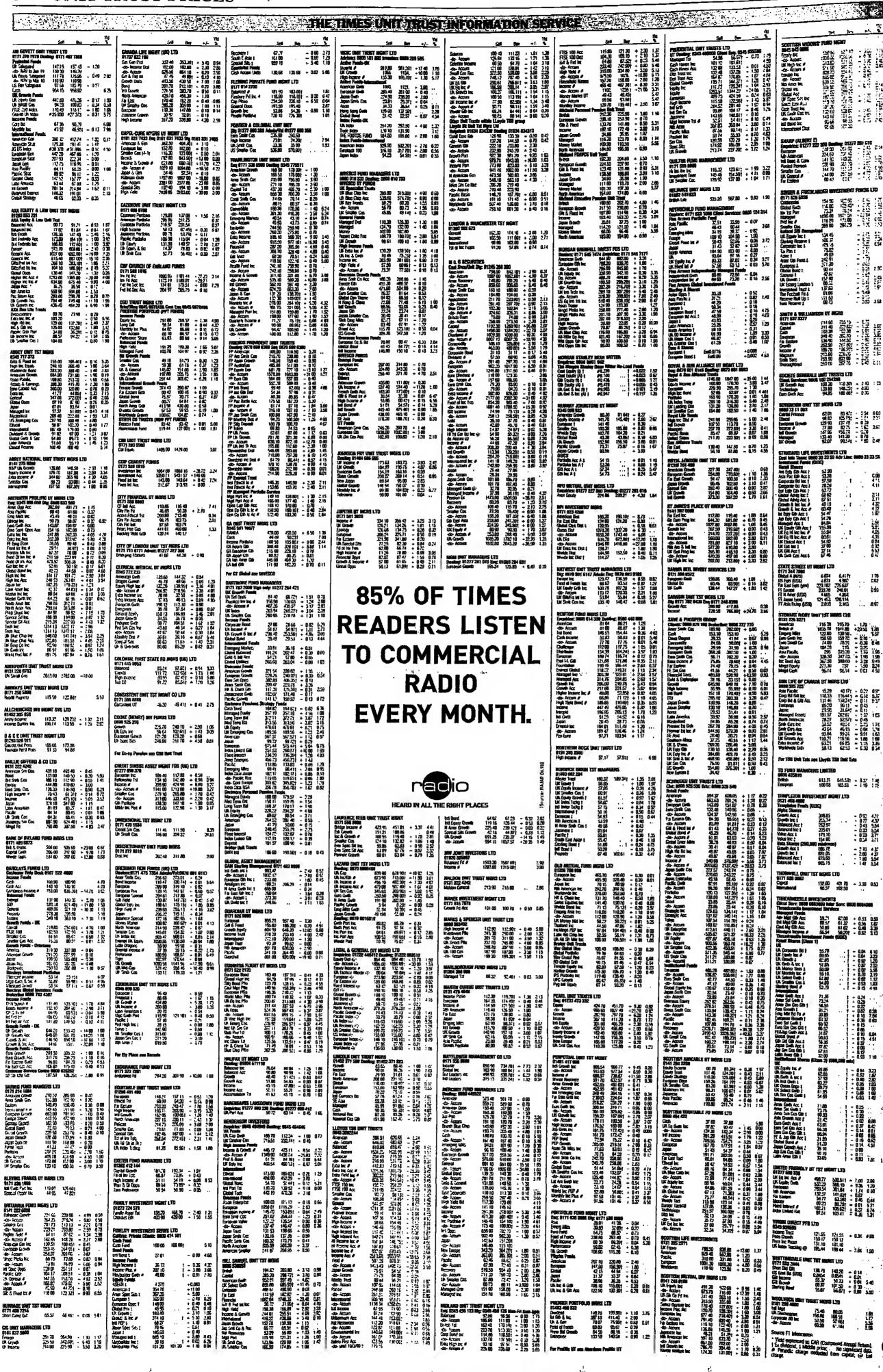
The third woman. Cat's 37-year-old grand-daughter Kate (Ingrid Craigle), a novelist who is careful always to include love in the title of her books, fives in the Ireland of the present day and therefore wins the dubious honour of filling everybody in on "the way things are".

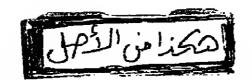
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The present cast is the tenth's play arrived in London two an



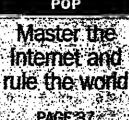








THE





ot often does this column venture to comprehend the sweaty rinal of sport or the arcane joys of high finance. But a saga like the Banke of Wembley Stadium is far too enthralling to be left dangling between jockstraps and bean-counters. Indeed, its chief features will be happily recognised by arts page readers - ie, monstrous waste of lottery money; clash of giant egos; quangos appar-ently staffed by headless chickens; government complacency; and managerial mishaps on a Titanic scale. In short, all the makings of a

first-class national humiliation.

Besides which, it is an arts story.

Mess around with Wembley Stadium and Arena and you have, at a stroke, jeopardised two of the very few venues in London capable of housing the biggest pop and show-biz events, from Madonna to Dis-

ney on loe and the Three Tenors.

London seems destined to play reluctant host to one public building fiasco every decade, doesn't it? In the Seventies it was the Barbican Centre: in the Eighties the British Library. Both were apparently constructed in a surreal parallel

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Sick as a parrot over ref's Wembley decision

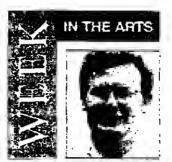
lines passeth all understanding. Then, in the Nineties, the amazing parade of prarfalls (and indeed prats) accompanying the Royal Opera House redevelopment awoke memories of Norman Wisdom in older observers and the Teletubbies in younger ones. And now comes the Battle of Wernbley Stadi-um, which seems certain to add greatly to the hilarity of nations in

the first decade of the new century.

It all started when England de-cided that it wanted to stage the football World Cup in 2006. No, let me rephrase that. It started when the Government decided that it wanted England to stage the World Cup. Cynical friends offer the disgraceful hypothesis that this is part of a deep-laid plan to get Labour re-elected for the third time on a surge of feel-good patriotic fervour - but we know, of course, that such base calculations never enter the saintly realm of Tonyland. More pertinent, surely, is the Football Association's wacky belief

that, having ditched a New Age re-incarnationist as national footie coach, and replaced him with a man who says he will do the job on alternate Wednesday afternoons (weather permitting), England can actually win the damn trophy. Anyway, in order to bring the

competition to England, Wembley Stadium needs to be rebuilt. No-body argues about that. Its amusingly medieval lavatories and corrugated-iron tea-bars may have been objects of wonder in 1923, but they hardly conform to present-day notions of comfort and joy. So a £120 million lottery grant, the biggest for any project except the dreaded Dome, will help to pay for the purchase and demolition of the stadium, and the erection of a new £200 million 80,000-seat venue in its place. How do you spend £200 million on building a new football ground, where the biggest features are fresh air and grass? The answer is that where lottery cash is involved, anything's possible!



RICHARD MORRISON

Then life's little complications started to kick in. The FA, which decided (along with the Sports Coun-cil) to purchase the stadium for £103 million and do the redevelopment itself, was rocked by a bizarre loans scandal and the Hoddle dehacle Then Brent council suddenly discovered a hitherto well-hidden preservationist zeal, and kicked up a stink when it learnt that Wernbley's "world-famous" twin towers would be demolished in the redevelopment. Naturally a gaggle of tweedy heritage "guardians" jumped on the bandwagon to save

the wretched concrete lumps. Meanwhile the board of Wernbley ple (which owns the stadium and its satellite arenas and exhibition halls) became bitterly divided. Three non-executive directors, led by a colourful 75-year-old boxing promoter, Jarvis Astaire, wanted to pull out of the FA deal altogether, arguing persuasively that Wembley is such a ghastly mess of inadequate car parks, dismal walkways and hopeless transport links that it needs redevelopment as a whole, not with the stadium removed and separately owned.

The rebel directors tried to stoke up shareholder discontent by encouraging rival bids for Wembley, first from a British company, Enic, then recently from the giant American promoters, SFX. The latter is a particularly intriguing outfit. With

a revenue of \$1.3 billion from 12,000 evenus last year. SFX could well afford to offer a good price for Wembley and turn it into Europe's foremost entertainment complex.
This boardroom conflict quickly

developed into a thrilling slanging march between Astaire and the excitable Ken Bates, chairman of Chelsea Football Club, who is leading the FA's bid. Bates accuses Astaire of imperilling the whole World Cup 2006 dream. Astaire responds by calling the Chelsea gaf-fer "Chairman Mao Tse-Bates". Now, now, girls; it's only a game.

B ut of course it isn't. It's big business. Yesterday the Wembley shareholders voted to press ahead with selling the stadium to the FA. That decision will be hailed as a triumph for the "patriots": after all, the way is now clear for England to bid for the World Cup. But patriotism in this case does seem to be the last refuge of the megalomaniac - and there

are a good many of them in the foot-ball world. The fact is that the Wembley complex hosts just a handful of football matches a year. whereas it stages dozens of big showbiz events every month. To redevelop the stadium, under the control of a football quango whose recent managerial record may charitably be called appalling, without reference to Wembley's showbiz programme and without solving the massive logistical problems of reaching this disastrously cramped corner of North London - that is a recipe for chaos.

What can be done? Well, when this Government created the De-partment for Culture, Media and Sport, it made much of how this grouping would allow many-sided challenges to be tackled "holistical-ly", if Chris Smith is going to put that fine ideal into practice, the time is now and the place is Wembley. It's far more than a "field of dreams" for muddied oafs; it is a vital square mile in the nation's cul-tural life. Lavish £300 million on it by all means, but don't end up with a white elephant in a wasteland. London doesn't need another of

Time travellers

ometimes it seems as though every public building in Dublin cur-rently shelters some kind of tribunal aimed at righting the wrongs of the past, rooting out the wrongdoers and offering to the nation's rankest secrets healthy doses of what Jerry Springer might call "the anti-septic of sunlight".

Not to be left behind by this national examination of conscience, Hugh Leonard's latest venture on to the Abbey stage uses the playwright's by-now familiar dramatic technique of overlapping the past and present to offer glimpses not of blue remembered hills, but of a century of infamy.

The audience is forced to hit

the ground running as they are unceremoniously planted in a field in rural Limerick where a portentous meeting of three women is taking place around an ancient stone.

Their meeting is extraordinary since one of the trio, Cat for many years but appears as a youth, while another, her daughter Triona (Catherine Walsh), is still living in 1960s Ireland, a time when "no child was too young to offend the mother of God".

The third woman. Cars 37-year-old grand-daughter Kate (Ingrid Craigie), a novelist who is careful always to include love in the title of her books, lives in the Ireland of the present day and therefore wins the dubious honour of filling everybody in on "the way things are".

Dark secrets that turn out to be neither as dark nor as secret as they seemed bubble to the surface as Leonard compares and contrasts Ireland

n another decade or two, when

Matthew Warchus's production is

on its fiftieth cast change, actors

though only in terms of longevity.

before one of her tiresome gestures is

past and present. But even before his heroines get around to quoting Larkin at each other, a familiar tone pervades the piece, a mixture of ridicule and jealousy provoked by the man-ners and freedoms of the modern world. Leonard can see, without much strain, that something has been gained over the old order in which single pregnant women were all but incarcerated, their children stolen from them. But he cannot bring himself to celebrate the new because there is simply too much around that merits his disdain.

Karen Ardiff pushes her weak role to its limits, giving through her boisterous physicality all the little substance the production has, while Cath-



erine Walsh's good work nev er really escapes the flatness of her role. Kate, the character who ostensibly lives in the present day, seems as dated as any of her ancestors, full of Seventies zeal about her independence as she explains that "these days" someone you are in a relationship with is called your partner.

When Triona inquires in return if there is a business meeting going on, it gives only the meekest hint of the standard of the play's humour. Like too much of Love in the Title, Leonard's quips feel as though they were buried in a time capsule several years ago and only re-cently exhumed.



A paler shade of white this time

may look askance at colleagues who have not yet done time playing Marc, Serge, Yvan or all three of the friends riven apart by Serge's purchase of an all-white painting for a price equivalent to what bumbling Yvan earns in a years ago, and though the play's shocks, set pieces and year. Yasmina Reza's play will have become the 21st century's Mousetrap -Christopher Hampton's crisply literate translation takes wing and stings central argument still hold firm this is not with a passion seldom to be found in one of the better com-Mrs Christie: a description of Marc's wife as "wearily malicious", for in-stance, creates her in front of us, even

binations of actors. In different productions our sympathies switch between the actors at different points, but few people are likely to find themselves taying for long on the side of Danny Webb's Serge.



ford, and plainly he loves his 20 square feet of white paint though Reza, unwisely, never gives him the chance to reveal why this arouses such devotion. But when he first shows Marc his purchase his face wears a silently smug, thin smile of achievement

that defines Serge's personality as illnatured.

long friendship has been, from his point of view, that of mentor and pupil, the probability of these two ever having cared for each other seems minute. Tom Mannion's Marc clearly sees Serge's new love as treachery, but his attempts to be tolerant are convincing as well as comic, seething beneath the

Gary Olsen's Yvan earned a round of applause for the account of his ghastwedding arrangements, but he should look to the clarity of his speaking here and in his collapse into sobs before his implacable ex-friends.

The silent olive-eating scene is as elegant and funny as ever but the matter of the play, not art but friendship, rests on frailer foundations this time

Fanning the French flames

average 10,000 words a day to men's 4,000. If Cocteau's one-act Bel Indifferent is to be believed, that is an insulting understatement. I did not count the words that poured from the protagonist, a nightclub performer based on Edith Piaf and played by Amanda Harris, but it was an unstoppable torrent of hurt rage. Since the man in the case remained silent throughout,

the score over a full day would probably be 50,000 to nil. Ravishing Indifference, as Helen Lea and Andrew Wale have translated the title, is the fourth and longest segment of the 75-minute evening called Take the Fire. And why that name? Because Cocteau was once asked what he would take from his house if it were burning and replied that he'd take the fire. That is the sort of remark with which French intellectuals have always irritated plainer folk, but it serves to point out that the evening's content is not exactly ice-cold.

All four of the women played by Harris are pretty combustible, and all are living or reliving moments of maximum ignition. In the opening monologue, which involves a young criminal who has disguised himself as a woman to evade the flics, Harris commits murder with a gun. In the second, which is written in verse, she is a maid who kills her mistress with poison, and in the third she is a gamblaholic who mainly damages herself. But though these pieces give Harris the chance to show us that she can smoulder and singe, they are pretty thin beside Ravishing Indifference.

True, this is hardly rich, complex stuff, but only radical feminists and newer-than-new men will deny that there is some truth in its simplicities. He is not home by 2am. She makes a furtive, apologetic call to one of his friends, who fails to give him a proper alibi. Then in he walks, puts on a dressing-gown, reads Le Figaro, falls asleep, gets up, dresses and goes out again; and all

THEATRE take the Fire Lyne Studio, WG

nant. Meanwhile she delivers a monologue that moves from martyred reproach through insults and violent threats to protestations of love and hu-

miliating apologies.
Cocteau wrote this robust if predictable piece after Piaf told him of her troubles with

ceeded herself to perform it in public. Did she, I wonder, justify Lea and Wale's title by making her audiences feel that coals of fire were pouring from her innards and being heaped on her lover's head? That is the challenge; and, good actress though she is, Harris does not quite rise to it. She is pained and pleadingly middle-class, not tough and abjectly, deliantly ugly: an Amanda, not a Piaf.

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The present cast is the tenth since the JEREMY KINGSTON without emixing half a conso-Until we learn from Marc that their play arrived in London two and a half Of course he has every right to buy NOMINATED FOR ACADEMY AWARDS

deadly calm.

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ARTS

MUSIC

Previn's birthday party

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargle

LONDON

GROSS INDECENCY: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde: Michael Pen-nington plays Wilde, with William Hoyl-and and Cilve Francis as coursel for and against in Moless Raulman's play. Gleigud (0171-494 5085). Previews from tonight, 7,45pm. Opens Mer 22.

MAHLER AND VIENNA. The second MANLER AND VIERNA: The second leg of Christoph von Dohnárny's senes dedicated to the music of Gustav Mahler reaches its climax with a performance by the Philharmonia of the composer's apic Ninth Symphony. Dohnáryı conducts. Festival Half (0171-980 4242). Tomorrow, 7.30pm. (5)

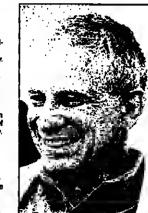
IN PERFECT HARMONY: An abundance of vocal harmonies can be enjoyed when the world-famous Swingle Singers are jouned by members from the barbershop fratemity for an evening of glorious a coppella music. Barblean (0/71-638 8891).

Tomorrow, 7.30pm. ©

ELSEWHERE

BRITIANGHAM: The Towards the Milennum lestival continues its survey of the 1980s. Here the City of Etrimispham Symphony Onchestra under Simon Rattle repeats last week's London concert of Lutoslawski's lyrical Third Symphony followed by pieces by Takemitsu and Adams. Symphony Hall (0121-212 3333). Tomorrow, 7pm. (5)

CAMBRIDGE: As a conclusion to the University Music Faculty's calebrations of Cambridge composers of the past 25 years. Stephen Cleobury conducts a performance of Alexander Goeth's mystical contata, The Death of Moses. The evening also marks Goeth's departure as professor of music here.



Alexander Goehr is celebrated in Cambridge

Trinity College Chapel (01223 503333). Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

EXETER: Mike Alfreds directs Philip Cement's Buried Alfred, about a photo-journalist emotionally traumatised since childhood. Latest for the Mad-ness & Method bouring rep company. Northcott Theatre (0392 493493), Opens tonight, 7,30pm. GLASGOW: Walter Weller conduct

GLASGOW: Walter Walter conducts his last concert with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra this season. Soprano Ruth Fation joins the measure and orchestra for Richard Streuss's Four Last Sorgs. Braivns, Smetana and Dvonité also feature. Royal Concert Hall (0141-287 5511). Tonight, 7.30pm. (§)

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London ■ House full, returns only 🖸 Some seats available 🖸 Seats at all prices

SLAVA'S SNOWSHOW: The excellent Russian clown and mime artist Stava Polunin returns, with new erial, new clowns as well as his orgatiable finale. unforgattable finale. Piccadilly Theatre (0171-389 1734). MACBETH: Rulus Sewell and Sally Dector play the superstitious thane and his missis in John

Crowley's production. Queens, W1 (0171-494 5041). ☐ GAMBLERS: Tam Williams plays Li GAMBLETS; Iam whats pie the seemingly invnctible hero in Gogol's thrilling play, directed by Charlie Wood for a King's Head/Double Edge co-production BAC (0171-223 2223), (5)

HAMLET: Rupert Wickham plays the hero in Christopher Geetan's production, opening this relaunched

theatre. Greenwich 🚯 (0870 840 1111). TAKE THE FIRE: Four monologues for women (gambler, maid, prostitute, desperate lover) by Jean Cocteau, performed by Amenda

Harris. Paul Carrington's direction weaves them together. See review, page 35. Lwric Studio (0181-741 8701). 🖏 SPEER: Naus Meria Brandauer directs and plays the title role of Hitler's master architect in Esther Vilar's chama. With Sven Eric Bechtoff, Almelda (0171-259 4404).

TI SHOCKHEADED PETER: The Scissorman is back: wonderfully sinister show by the Cultural Industry team with the Tiger Lillies and Martyn Jacon se's falceto someth. Jacques's falsetto screech. Lyric (0181-741 8701). (3)

DEPENDING THE CAVEMAN Mark Little makes his West End debut in Rob Becker's new comedy, tracing the origins of the man/woman difference back to the caves.

Apollo (0171-494 5070).

COPENHAGEN: Heisenberg mysteriously calls on Niels Bohr in wartime Dennrarik, Michael Frayn's intelligent play transfers to theWest End, Michael Blakemore directs, Duchess (0171-494 5075).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

PATCH ADAMS (12): Robin Williams puts the comic stitches in this absurd medical movie about a doctor who wants to cure the world with laughter Director Tom Shadyac extracts an

PLEASANTVILLE (12): Ingenious spoof of American family values. Two dysfunctional 1990s teensgers get sucked into a squeaky-clean 1950s TV soap. Great performances from Tobey Maguire. Jeff Daniels and Reesa Witherspoon.

CENTRAL STATION (15): Walter Selles's Brazilian road movie creates tabulous chemistry between a young boy in search of his identity and a cynical ex-teacher in search of her road Serverada Montreasure conf soul. Fernanda Montenegro and Virucius de Oliveira are estenishing SCHIZOPOLIS (18): Steven Soderbergh's experimental sake on corpo-rate arciety is utter gibbensh, with camera angles and dialogue to match.

BELOVEO (15): Oprah Winkey is surprisingly powerful as a runaway slave haunted by pollergeists, lynd mobs, and a dead daughter. Jonat

Demme's overlong film fails, how-ever, to get inside the festering heart of Toni Monison's Pulitzer Pitze winner. With Denny Glover, Thandie Newton, and Kimborly Elise.

THE 39 STEPS (U): Hitchcock's with take on Buchen's ripping yarn is full smooth bachelor dealine across Scot-tend pursued by police and ruthless spies. A romance and good hand-cuff-ing rurely feel more than a frame away. THE THIN RED LINE (15): A glittering cest of American soldinar loss their sanity in the South Pacific during the Second World War. Terrence Malick's artistic masterplace stars Sean Pennt, Jim Caviezel, Ben Chapitn, Nick Note,

YOU'VE GOT MAIL (PG): Bullet-proof romantic blockbuster with Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan who tall in love on the internet. White/director Nora Ephron. TITANIC TOWN (15): Julie Walters excels as a pugnacious Catholic housewile in this grim review of Northern Iroland's Troubles carca 1972. Roger Michell directs.

AFFLICTION (15) Paul Schrader's surface from (1) Pain solutions is brusing portrait of a finistrated small-lown cop Nick Note and sames Cobum put in powerful performances, as father and son daught in a cycle of male violunce.

Music at his feet

chard Alston thrives on music. It feeds his soul, and can help to set his choreography soaring. Alston's company sailed into London this week on three small but balmy gusts of live music. The performances are part of a national tour that demonstrates why, after 30 years, Alston remains one of our top artistic resources.

In 1994's Movements From Petrushka, set to Stravinksy's pared-down plano version of his full orchestral score, the instrument is centre stage. So is

DANCE

Richard Alston Queen Elizabeth Hall

the drama, conveyed entirely yet also abstractly through dance.

Alston's inspiration is both Fokine's 1911 ballet about a pioable puppet-pariah, and the equally tragic later life of Vaslav Nijinsky, originator of the ballet's title role. Christopher Tudor gave the central figure a troubled power. A string of fluid solo actions perfectly betray an outcast's anguish: a quick tumble, rolling shoulder and juddering head, a flicking of the arms, some elbow-clutching crouches. How ironic that all this neurotic physical behavious should stem from such a strong, stable-looking specimen as Tu-

His tortured isolation was underlined by the high-spirited partnerings of three couples. Here the weighted inflec-tions of Russian folk dance are sewn into Alston's familiar style, complete with signature windmill-armed leaps. The music capers on the edge of mania, and Alston rides it without becoming its slave. In last year's Waltzes in Dis-

order, the cue came from Brahms's Liebeslieder-Walzer Op 52, for four singers and two pianists. The lush loops and lacings of Alston's writing might initially justify those who accuse him of sexlessness. Then suddenly, with a clasp of a neck and a stroked cheek, the dance is doing more than

t wasn't quite the way the party

poppers went missing after Kiri

der way in earnest at the Barbican.

Symphony, breathing the rarefied air

This was a performance of subtle.

quietly spoken authority. When the ma-

terial is as insubstantial as the modally

inflected melody which dominates the

Previn chose for the occasion.



skimming across a surface of whipped-cream Romanticism. Two men — Tudor and the delibird-like Martin Lawrance - establish an intimate and enchanted bond that can't be shaken off.

work exposes some of Alston's limitations. The impetus of Slow Airs Almost All of Them is Mozart's arrangements of several Bach fugues for string trio. It's hard not to regard the result as just another of Al-The programme's newest ston's attractive ensemble piec-

es - all subdued, lyrical athleticism, a melding of mostly solos and duets so smooth, so lacking in traction that they roll on to, and slip out of, your consciousness as you watch. Yet Alston's craft as an honest-to-goodness maker of steps

around. Although he rarely turns up the heat to full blast. the work communicates a nassionate and mature intelligence about bodies in motion.

DONALD HUTERA

tion reanimated every poem that

don Symphony Chorus, whose admira-

John Mark Ainsley was Spenser's he-

roic Merry Cuckoo and. later, created

quite wonderfully the ecstatic vision

transcends mere noodling

Subtly celebrating

CONCERT

Te Kanawa's cancellation at the weekend. But three days later André Pre-Preludio of this symvin's 70th birthday celebrations got unphony, then questions Earnest was the word. For it was of texture, balance with the measured tread, retrospective and pacing become cast of mind and visionary perspective of a fellow 70-year-old that Previn and the London Symphony Orchestra be-

all important. Previn drew perfectly poised playing from the LSO, anticipating the exquisitely placed string chords at the start of the slow Romanza. Half-regan the evening. Previn won national affection as early as the 1960s for his championship of English composers: and it was Vaughan Williams's Fifth of Bunyan's Pilgrin's Progress, which

membered, far-off things they seemed, haunted by the shade of Tallis, and finding their apotheosis in a final "alleluia" glimpsed through a golden arch of horns and trumpets. Britten, no less keenly championed by Previn, was to find literary soul-

mates in different corners of the 17th

poetry, from Spenser LSO/Previn to Auden, which com-Barbican pose the Spring Symphony seem to lift ly English up and over into the wider

European musical community for the first time. Previn's performance with the LSO made us hear those pungent, exotic sonorities of the opening anew. The "thou-

sand-coloured light" of the spring sun.

as evoked in an anonymous loth-centu-

ry poem, was refracted through the

strong and variegated voices of the Lon-

what is quintessential-

Vaughan Williams.

within Henry Vaughan's Waters Above, its spiritual showers dancing in And the 14 settings of the bows of the violins. The violas were equally sensitive partners to Roberta Alexander in Her-

rick's Welcome Maids of Honour, while Felicity Lott enjoyed robust repartee with the excellent Finchley Children's Music Group in The Driving

A slightly stooping Previn seemed physically dwarfed by his tall colleagues as he took a final bow; but these self-effacing performances had undeniable and memorable stature.

HILARY FINCH

Lloyd says his prayers

■ CHARLES LLOYD

Voice in the Night (ECM 1674 559 445- 2) ALTHOUGH Charles Lloyd has now made six ECM al-bums since returning to recording in 1989, this is the first to feature the tenor player fronting an entirely US-based band, and he has chosen it

Lloyd's association with Billy Higgins goes back 40 years. and the drummer's ability to maintain the subtlest of pulses, through light brushwork on his skins and the delicate propulsiveness of his cymbal playing, fits Lloyd's contemplaove, almost prayerful approach perfectly. Bassist Dave Holland provides the supple energy at the band's core, and guitarist John Abercrombie takes full advantage of the generous amount of space he's granted with a series of perfectly judged, swooningly graceful

It is Lloyd himself, though,

NEW JAZZ ALBUMS

with his familiar warbling. rapturously meditative sound. who sets the album's tone, whether he is reinterpreting old material — Island Blues, Forest Flower, exploring originals, or taking a fresh look at Billy Strayhorn's A Flower is a Lovesome Thing.

■ RUSSELL GUNN

Ethnomusicology Volume I (Atlantic 7567 83165-2) AS ITS title suggests, this latest release from the US trumpeter Russell Gunn — his first for a major label - concerns it-self with, in his words, "the study of black music on all levels... the sounds coming out of apartment windows and cars driving by. I have to incorporate those things into what I

Consequently, straighta-head jazz trumpet of the sort Gunn provides for Wynton Marsalis's Lincoln Centre Jazz Orchestra jostles with the hiphop and rolling funk he plays with Branford Marsalis's Buckshot LeFonque; a Woody Shaw composition is preceded by a brief scratching solo by DJ Apollo, and samples, of everything from Run DMC to statements from Charles Mingus and Wynton himself, crop

up throughout the album. The result, courtesy of the skill and enthusiasm of the musicians Gunn has assembled (who include reedsman Gregory Tardy and trombon-ist Andre Heyward), not to mention his own brightly inventive trumpet and flugelhorn playing, is an intriguing - and immediately attractive - tour d'horizon of contemporary New York sounds.

CHRIS PARKER

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13 cheers for Blur

NEW POP ALBUMS: Blur tempt fate

and the fickle taste of the public on

the experimental 13, and emerge triumphant, says David Sinclair

BLŲR

(Food CD 29 £14.99) "WHO dares wins", a motto designed to inspire elite soldiers, could equally well have been coined to describe Blur's progress through the 1990s. Having made their mark as sad, strung-out indie-kids, they had the wit to embrace the brash, laddish certainties of Britpop, and then the nerve to administer a savage bite to the hand feeding them via 1997's Blur, a wilfully outre collection which confounded all expectations by becoming their bestselling album yet.

They have oow thrown all remaining caution to the wind, cutting the ties with their longstanding producer Stephen Street, abandoning any lingering musical inhibitions and tempting fate with the very title of their sixth alburn, 13. The results so far include a single (the pseudo-gospel singalong, Tender) that was even playlisted on Radio 2, a "Blur day" on Radio I and blanket approval in all quarters of the press. As far as having your cake and eating it goes, it doesn't get much chewier than this.

Produced by William Orbit (who co-produced Madonna's Ray of Light), the album is every bit as adventurous as Blur and then some. The horribly distorted guitar sound on Bugman, the sonic hailstorm that gradually overhauls 1992, the long discordant climax of Trimm Trubb and the fragmented, falsetto vocals in Battle suggest a range of impeccable leftfield influences ranging from Iggy Pop and early Roxy Music to Tortoise and the Cocteau Twins. The strange little codas, tacked on like musical appendices to numbers such as B.L.U.R.E.M.I., Coffee 8 TV and Caramel contribute to a sense of mild disorientation. and if it weren't for the digital

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Jeff Beck; www.epkrec TELEVISION

DK Top 40: Radio 1, Sunday, 4pm

display you would quickly lose

track of which song is which. Constantly surprising and extraordinarily inventive, this is an album that is initially easier to admire than to fall in love with, although the wonderfully loose, hip hop groove and wonky guitar scrawl of Trailerpark provides an instant buzz, its mantra-like lyric "I lost my girl to the Rolling Stones" drawing attention to a problem which seems to be on

While Oasis have long been compared to the Beatles, it is Blur who have ended up emulating the Beatles' trick of capturing both the popular vote and the creative high ground. a feat which they continue to pull off with the impressive scope and sheer daring of 13.

BETH ORTON Central Reservation

(Heavenly HVNLP22 £12.99) ALTHOUGH she has been a fellow traveller of dance artists such as William Orbit and the Chemical Brothers, Beth Orton reverts almost entirely to folk singer-songwriter mode for Central Reservation. With violins and cellos lending support to her acoustic guitar and austere vocal tone, numbers such as Blood Red River and Devil's Song have the chilly air of a chamber recital, while the more relaxed moods of eetest Decline (with Dr John on piano) and Pass in Time (featuring Terry Callier on harmony vocals) tend towards the soporific.

The best tracks are Stolen Car, with its revving slide guitar solo by Ben Harper and the harder, hip hop groove of Stars All Seem to Weep, but neither song is typical. "It's like catching snow on your tongue/Can't pin this butterfly down," she sings, and the charm of this album proves equally elusive.

compulsive listening.

Proudly flagging a range of 1960s influences — from the

the increase.

(Reprise 9362-47282 +2 £13.99) HAVING promised so much with their 1997 album, Being There. Wilco return with Summerteeth, a mildly disappoint-ing follow-up which, although assembled with the same scrupulous attention to detail as Being There, lacks the stormy passion and casual swagger that made that album such

Magical mystery tourists: while Oasis have long been compared to the Beatles, it is Blur who have emulated the Beatles' trick of capturing both the popular vote and the creative high ground Lennonesque plod of My Dar- for the only time, a burst of the most indolent, Jeff Beck takes But his haughty tone, hurharmonies of Nothing'sgonna-

Tweedy sings in a worldweary voice of sleepless nights, flawed relationships and the trials of growing old. "I printed my name on the back of a leaf/And I watched it

float away", he sings in Via Chicago, a song full of dark imagery and melancholy intent that disintegrates into a Neil Young-inspired guitar firestorm as, admittedly not

standinmyway (Again) - Jeff

JEFF BECK Who Else!

(Epic 493041 £14.99) STILL the most accomplished rock guitarist this country has ever produced, and still the

> CDs reviewed in The Times can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

ful career with Who Else! (apparently not a reference to Rory Bremner), his first alburn of new material since Jeff

Beck's Guitar Shop in 1989. While hardly a part of the contemporary scene. Beck is alert to recent developments, and makes a good fist of marrying his explosive playing style to the fast, Prodigy-inspired techno rhythm tracks of What Mama Said and Psycho

rect from the source, so to

speak, presumably it would be

the end of record shops as we

Jonathan Rees, the chart, rock & pop manager of HMV

UK, speaks for many when he says he believes the likelihood of such a radical development

is remote. "I don't think downloading and Internet retailing will ever take off to that de-

gree," Rees says. "People will always enjoy the process of buying music from a record

don't embrace it," says Elspeth Thomson, marketing director of Tower Records, which is pre-

paring to open a string of "ex-

press" stores in which custom

ers will be able to choose and

order the music they want to buy from an online music data-

base. The system will also in-clude a feature called Tower

Unflogged, which will give un-

signed bands the chance to post samples of their music on the website and thereby gain

xposure and feedback.

know them.

wide bends are heard to best effect on the slower, more conventional Brush With the Blues, a live recording that suggests he is on better form than ever.

He has left it too late to salvage his commercial standing, but if the dance revolution really has re-tuned people's ears to the delights of instrumental music, perhaps the rave gener-ation will at least grant this alburn the respect it deserves.

The Miseducation of ______ Fve Heen Expecting You _____ This is thy Truth Tell Me Yours Manic Street Preachers (Epic)

Caitlin Moran is unwell.

The cyberspace cowboys ride out

Downloading from the Internet will spell the end of music as

we know it

t is nine o'clock on a Wednesday night. At a studio in London the electronica duo Coldcut are performing a session of music accompanied by visuals which goes out live on the Internet at www.piratetv.net. At the same time, a man in Cornwall tunes into an American alternative rock radio station called 97X, which serves the Cincinnati area from an adjoining university town in Ohio. He does this by tapping www.woxy97x.com into his computer service pro-

Meanwhile, in a village in northern Sweden, 100 miles from the nearest record shop. a woman accesses Boxman (www.boxman.com), an Internet retailer that claims to have cornered a 10 per cent share of the Scandinavian market in just two years, and orders the new CD by American underground band Sleater-Kinney. it will arrive through her letter-

 box by the weekend. At the University of Victoria in Canada, an engineering student in search of a track from an old Aerosmith album does not even have to wait that long. Using MP3 technology. he downloads the song from one of the many illegal "juke-box" web sites which offer a wide variety of music, free of charge, as a "public service" to Internet users.

You don't have to understand how all this is done to realise that monumental changes are afoot in the music indus-



"If all music is instantly pirated how are we going to stay in business?" says Matt Black

try. "People think it's years away," says marketing consultant Jon Webster. "It's not. It's happening right now."

Consumers, it seems, cannot lose. Once the new technology has been invested in and mastered, a whole world of music is placed at their fingertips. No more trudging to the local record shop or wandering round the megastore in search of an album that may be out of stock or even deleted. And, once you know where to look in cyberspace, a lot of music can be acquired for the cost of a phone call.

But the benefits of these extraordinary developments may be less obvious to the copyright owners of the songs themselves. "It is a threat," Webster says. "People are downloading illegal digital

copies of albums that have been posted on the Internet. That's theft. And in many cases it is the artists who are losing out even more than the record companies." "All the major record compa-

nies see the Internet as a threat," says Andy Saunders. head of communications of the independent label Creation, whose boss Alan McGee was one of the first to predict that computer technology would radically alter the structure of the music business. "We wanted to put our own stuff on an MP3 site." Saunders says. "But Sony [which has a 49 per cent stake in Creation] asked us not to. Our attitude is that it's the Wild West out there. and we want to keep an open mind about it." Even Matt Black of Coldcut,

'I'm in an ambivalent situation," he says. "I'm pleased that more people are making their own music and that there are alternative forms of distribution, but as an artist and

owner of my own record label [Ninja Tune] I make a living out of selling music. If all music can become instantly pirated and that becomes accepta-ble, how are we going to stay in business?" But if the artists and record companies are feeling vulnera-ble, then what of the high street retailers? There will always be artists making the music and record companies which will devise a way of mar-

keting it for a profit. But if

who has been "something of an evangelist for DIY digital Perhaps this is the future, a system whereby retailers, artculture", has misgivings about the spread of MP3 technology. ists and record companies work together to make the most of the expanded opportunities which the Internet has to offer. Jimmy Devlin, MD of Globalfulfillment.com, a rapidly growing Internet retail facilitator, believes so. "New technology is always

greeted with suspicion by the record industry," he says. "Home taping didn't kill music. and video didn't kill the movies. They tapped into a new market. It's the same with the Internet and online retailing. It's a value-add situation." DAVID SINCLAIR

◆ Coldcut play the Forum. London NW5 (0171-284 2200) neat Friday. The show can be viewed live

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Everyday voices of Ulster

A unique radio series is revealing a legacy of pain, says its producer John O'Neill

undreds of people affected by the Troubles in Northern Ireland, whose tales have never previously been told. are describing their experiences in an ambitious series of interviews for Radio Ulster.

Late last year, as plans for the series fell into shape, Anna Carragher, head of broadcast at BBC Northern Ireland, rightly described the Legacy project as "a voice for the voiceless".

For producers, the early discussions on any broadcast can be daunting. The Legacy project was more intimidating than most. As co-producers. Elizabeth Kelly and I faced the task of putting together 365 interviews, each edited down to two minutes, for broadcast daily throughout 1999 in a prime-time slot on Radio Ulster. It was clear from the start that

we had to be open-minded and allow each speaker to put forward their thoughts on the events. This required sensiovity - there was no doubt that some of the material would upset sections of our audience: in Northern Ireland what is a victim to one group is often seen as a legiomate larget by the other. It became obvious that our impartiality would be severely tested.

Last autumn Elizabeth and I. along with line manager Kieran Hegarty, set about working out how to present such stories. We needed to reflect all shades of opinion and experiences. In Northern Ireland there is hardly a person who has not been affected by the Troubles, so we began with the people we knew, explored contacts and talked to community and victim support groups. We set up a contact line and encouraged people to come forward with stories. We made it



Every day this year John O'Neill and his Radio Ulster team are broadcasting the tales of people affected by the Troubles.

'WE HEARD THE EXPLOSION NEAR US — IT WAS DEFINITELY A BOMB'

been . . . the posts had been warned and bad-

ly twisted. So I decided to go into the field

and see was anyone in the field. So, there

was a priest from a monastery near us -- he

was already coming through the gate beside

me with a huge flash lantern. We come on

left of a human being. But I knew by the legs that it was my father. Then we come on

what was my niece. Now she wasn't as bad

as my father, but she was also dead. We had

what I can describe as just ... what was

clear that we were not seeking politicians, campaigners or anyone who could be thought of as having a "public profile". In the early days I spoke to several callers who had suffered but had made contributions to the media. I ex-

This is on November 23, 1988. We were sit-

tiog in the house on a Wednesday night

when a bomb went off - we heard the explo-

sion near us. It was definitely a bomb. My

father had been seen near the barracks

around that time and I got a wee bit worried

and started inquiring, did anyone see my

father's car coming up the street or near the

barracks. But no one seemed to have seen it.

into the field opposite the barracks had

"So, they had noticed the gate leading

plained to one woman that her appearances in the media had given her a profile and that while I in no way wished to demean the deaths in her family, I would not be recording her. "I understand," she replied. "You want to talk to

people who haven't had a chance to speak. That's OK." January I loomed large on the calendar and we had set ourselves a targel of five interviews to be recorded and edited each week. It was hard to make the tar-

of how it worked. I flew to Eng-land to record soldiers who had

gel as the public had no concept served here; Elizabeth talked to victims' groups. We travelled hundreds of miles each week. The material shocked both of us.

discussed who was going to tell my brother-

in-law about his daughter. So it was left to

me to go and tell him, and it was one of the

hardest things that ever I have done in my

life - to tell a man that his daughter was

dead. They talk about people being shot or

bombs going off bere and there. Well, oo tel-

evision, every time I see one of them, I still

relive the night that my father and niece

was killed. I still relive that night."

Anonymous broadcast on March 2.

lems. I was wrong.
I am stunned by the detail of what has happened to some people I interview: the savagery that has been inflicted on them: the farmer who reluctantly left the land after two gun attacks: the grief of a woman whose mother 25 years ago left to go shopping and died in a bomb blast; the fam-

> instead of being shot? I was taught to maintain a "professional detachment' from the detail of my work, but it's difficult as the enormity of the wrongdoing pours out. But what astounds me most is the forgiveness and the willingness to understand and move on. Legacy has be-come a small part of that process.

ily who want to know why their

son could not have been arrested

Some people had never spoken so frankly to a stranger, for others it was the first time that they had

got to grips with the enormity of

what bad happened to them. We

found ourselves in an unusual role as we talked to people who

wanted someone to explain why it had all happened. I now carry

the telephone numbers of be-reavement counsellors.

the reaction - it didn't take long.

The first call complained of bias

towards the security lorces. I explained that the caller might

wait a few months and then re-

flect on our coverage. We now get a steady positive feedback. The

latest was a call from the man

who co-ordinated the Omagh

trauma team. He felt that Legacy

the details given to her. I identified with her feelings. I spent ten years doing social work with young people who had problems

relating to authority, and who

were often easy targets for recruit-

ment by paramilitary groups. 1 had assumed that I had a de-

tailed knowledge of Northern Ire-land, its people and their prob-

The most recent member of our team, Aislinn

Duffield, described to

me her shock at some of

was a positive contribution.

We went on air and waited for

● Legacy is broadcast daily at 8.58am on Radio Ulster.

Live and let die?

TWO journals cast doubt on the future of Live TV, Mirror group's cable channel. Marketing reports that Live's losses are running at £9 million "and with predators circling, it seems only a matter of time before Mirror Group pulls the plug ... Signs are that it won't be around to broadcast New Millennium Topless Darts." In Broadcast the headline is "End of the Line for Live?, but the magazine weighs in with good news for the beleagured channel: the first sale of one of its programmes. Lie Detector, to ITV.

■ TONY SCOULLER, the marketing director of the drinks firm UDV, sparked a lively debate in a speech doubting the value of advertising spirits on TV. Marketing Week reports that, since the voluntary ban on spirits advertising was lifted five years ago, the hard stuff has commanded a dwin-dling share of the drinks market. Last year E42 million was spent by liquor firms on TV ads, but sales still fell. The magazine



says that Scouller "may have dealt the glamorous world of TV advertising a blow from which it will be hard to recover".

■ CHANGING FACES: Chris Mann. sacked as editor of News Direct 97.3FM, to sue London News Radio, alleging unfair dismissal: Joe Murphy from The Mail on Sunday to be poliocal editor of The Sunday Telegraph (Press Gazette). John Coyle splits from old PR partner Brian Basham to found Clerkenwell Communications with Emma Kane (PR Week). Tony Cox quits as creative director of BMP DDB to take senior role in creative department at Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO (Campaign).

■ GETTING THE BUSINESS: Shell launches £20 million campaign using J Walter Thompson and the PR firm Fishburn Hedges (Marketing). Acacia Expedi-tions engages the Travel PR Company to handle media relations after six of its clients were killed in Uganda (PR Week).

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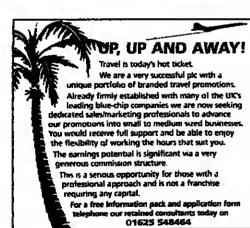
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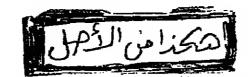
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Bronner Slosberg Humphrey



'Shows for the family are hard to find'

Claudia Rosencrantz brought us 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire? What else is up her sleeve, asks Carol Midgley

his should have been a week of unqualified tri-umph for Claudia Rosencrantz, ITV's controller of entertainment. Who Wants to be a Millionaire?, the addictive TV game show has just started its third series and achieved record audiences of nearly 19 million.
But rather than basking in glo-

ry, ITV's press office was coping with the embarrassing revelation that a contestant who won £125,000 had actually answered one of his questions incorrectly. The show's producers failed to notice but bundreds of viewers telephoned ITV and national newspapers to register the blunder. While it may have slightly

dulled the shine of the show's success, the incident unlikely to wipe the smiles off the faces of ITV executives. The programme, nounced as im-

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THE TENT

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moral for offering £1 million as a quiz prize, is proving to be ITV's golden goose. A recent show pulled in 18.8 million "live" viewers, a figure expected to rise to 19.3 million when video recordings are taken into account. If so, it will break the record held by a 1977 edition of Mastermind, seen by 19.1 million. It seems all the more remarka-

ble then that the programme idea sat on Rosencrantz's desk for two years before it was put into produc-1996. ITV management felt that there were too many game shows. ITV was enjoying success with family shows such as Wheel of Fortune and Play Your Cards

Right.
But Rosencrantz, convinced that the show would be a hit, persuaded its production company. Celador, to be patient. When

David Liddiment took over as the director of programmes in late 1997 she pitched the idea again. Liddiment commissioned it imme-diately. The show, in which contestants answer 15 general knowledge questions to accumulate El million, was originally titled Cash Mountain. Rosencrantz disliked this name and it became Who Wants to be a Millionaire?. partly because she likes the song of the same name. "I knew instinctively it would work and David has given us a brief to go with

what we believe in," she says. Rosencrantz began her career at The Sunday Telegraph magazine and Elle, and later met David Montgomery, then Editor of

World, at a party. They were the only sober peo-ple there, and Montgomery offered her a job on zine. In 1986 she joined LWT as a researcher in the entertainment department. This

spawned an eight-year working relationship with Barry Humphries, alias Dame Edna Everage. She went on to work with Chris Evans on Don't Forget Your Toothbrush and did an 18-month stint in the BBC factual department before returning to ITV in late 1995.

After three years in the job, Rosencrantz, 39, who commissioned such shows as The Shane of Truth (dubbed sadistic because it parades prizes in front of children, then snatches them away if their families fail to meet the challenge) is accustomed to hearing herself labelled the queen of the "tacky" Saturday night game show. But she says tacky is not necessarily a dirty word and that those who curl their lips at "un-



cynical" shows that appeal to a

mass audience are elitist.
The hardest thing is finding programmes that the entire family can watch together," she says. Millionaire is a straightforward, uncynical show how the audience has reacted. People say Moment of Truth is cruel to the children who appear but if you talk to the kids, they are not really upset. We have already

commissioned another series." Now that ITV has promised advertisers that is going upmarket and will draw in a wider and younger audience, her challenge

will be to find shows that fit that profile but remain the traditional Saturday evening TV "event".

Rosencrantz, who has a nine-month-old daughter, Lola, with her husband, the actor and writer Daniel Abinerl, also has a knack for knowing when shows are on their last legs. It was her decision to axe Beadle's About, the much vilified hoax show, and she recently announced the end of Gladiators, one of the big success stories of the Nineties. Meanwhile, the BBC is dispensing with Noel's

House Party, another veteran of

the Saturday evening schedule.

"Programmes have a natural lifespan, you must know when to call it a day," she says, "Gladiators has been brilliant, as has House Party, but people tire of things. Audiences are very televi-

underestimate that." This raises the question of whether the audience will stick with Millionaire if nobody scoops the £I million jackpot. So far the most won is £125,000. But public confidence in the show seems not to have been dented by this week's glitch (contestant Tony Kennedy gave 24 as the min-

which a tennis player can win a set. He was told he was right, although the correct answer is 12). "It was a genuine mistake and we apologised for it," Rosen-crantz says. "There was no soulsearching on our part over whether the contestant should keep the

money - it was our mistake. But

the checking procedures have been reinforced as a result." Whether its success continues remains to be seen. "f think it has a way to go yet. The public certainly isn't bored by it. Even I can't stand to miss a show."

The bucks stop here

Hollywood studios want cheaper stars, says Boyd Farrow

he average cost of making and mar-keting a Hollywood movie is now a staggering \$78 million (about £52 million), according to the Motion Picture Association of America. While the bill for producing a typical Hollywood film fell by 1.4 per cent to \$52.7 million in 1998, the cost of marketing and distributing it soared, leaping by 13 per cent to \$25.3 million. The slight dip in production costs is at-

tributed to the studios being in "one of their periodic fits of cost control". Another reason is that major stars and directors are agreeing to forgo their initial fees in return for a slice of the box-office spoils. Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg, for example, may earn \$80 million between them from their cut of Saving Private Ryan ticket sales, eating into the studio's profits. But Hollywood's belt-tightening clearly

has not extended to movie markeong, the cost of which has escalated by 44 per cent over the past five years. Such expenditure on hype reflects the fact that many of the 250 or so studio films released each year earn 40 per cent of their American revenue during their first weekend. If they fail to ignite, they are removed swiftly to make way for other films. During the past few years, the studios have relied on a handful of big stars to "open" a picture — and big-star salaries have rocketed.

In 1994, two days before Ace Ventura: Pet Detective opened, Time Warnerowned New Line Cinema refused to pay the film's unknown lead. Jim Carrey. \$1 million to star in another project, Dumb & Dumber. Two weeks later, when Ace Ventura proved a hit, New Line was forced to shell out \$7 million for Carrey to star in the same movie. His fee for Ace Ventura was \$300,000. In the next 12 months, price competition for top names went berserk.

n Monday, Bill Mechanic, the chairman of Fox Entertainment, told film convention delegates that the stars who now command \$20 million fees or 20 per cent of the box-office gross are pricing themselves out of the market. He said that all studios were slashing movie budgets and salaries, pointing to 20th Century Fox's use of such unknowns (at the time) as Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet for Titanic.

Mechanic's observations are borne out by the poor performance of big-star, bigbudget titles such as Lethal Weapon 4 and The Avengers in 1998. Disney's most profitable film last year was the \$19 million comedy The Waterboy, starring the unknown Adam Sandler, which grossed almost \$100 million. At the same time a spate of cheap and cheerful horror films, cast with teen TV idols, were among the most profitable films for years. Not surprisingly, Hollywood is now falling over itself to produce low-budget, youth-orientated films.

But, of course, today's youth heroes will be tomorrow's mega-earners: Leonardo DiCaprio is pocketing \$20 million to star in The Beach for Mechanic's studio.

nce you're hooked on the Internet, surfing can become a compulsion - and if you're a journalist, you can't stop brooding on its implications for newspapers. Are there profound les-

sons we ought to be learning? So I offer no apology for returning to subject of the Net, especially in the week of the Budget, which I tried to follow from the online editions of Britain's national newspapers. Could I get an Evening Me? I signed on to the Press Asso-

ciation, The Times. The Guardian, The Electronic Telegraph, the Financial Times, The Independent, The Express, The Mirror and This Is Money, the Daily Mail and The Mail on Sunday sites. So far as I could detect, The Express. The Mir-ror and The Independent had not attempted to run live reports but the rest competed to tell the story as it happened, offering regular news bites as Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, was speaking, except that

The Electronic Telegraph waited until the Budget was over. Some of the papers were less than helpful in signalling to a novice where to find the Budg-

et report. The Times had two Budget links, including on-ward links to the Inland Revenue, Treasury and Customs and Excise sites, but I got to just one, and then only because its editor had told me where to look. I could not get any news

from This Is Money until open, even though it was running news flashes from 4pm. And I never cracked the FT site - almost certainly because it was in heavy demand. I have, however, been getting its budget e-mails for the past two days. So the easiest to find and use as an online evening newspa-

per for this novice were the PA

sites. Both were running news flashes from the moment the Chanspeaking, with PA also offering a live

video link. By 6pm
The Guardian had also published a commentary on the Budget by Anthony Browne, The Observer's economics correspondent. The Times was updating until 2am and The Mail on Sunday was running tax tables from Price Waterhouse by 7pm. Yet the find of the day was the out-standing BBC website, which beat them all — hardly surpris-ing, given that it has IOO staff against four for PA and The

Yet even by fumbling round

the Net, I had assembled an Evening Me by 6pm and well before The Nine O'Clock News

I had an A4 Net "newspaper" with as much information as the next morning's papers, including the full text of Brown's speech. To all of which, one of my responses is: so what? For nothing in my Evening Me could match the sheer joy of spread-

ing out the newspapers next morning — so much easier than searching through them all on the Net - and seeing on

ferent voices of the British press. The Sun, with its front page announcing "Everyone's A Winner — Guaranteed Prize for Every

Reader" or The Mirror, with "Flash Gordon - He's helped every woman, every man, every child, every one of us". The Daily Mail accused Brown of a "tragic misjudgement" by new Labour on marriage and the family; in The Guardian Polly Toynbee described him as the chil-

dren's Chancellor". Without endlessly clicking a mouse, I could revel in the commentators - Anatole Kaletsky and Simon Jenkins in The Times, Hugo Young in The Guardian, Andrew Marr

display all the dif- and Charles Whelan in The Express, or Paul Routledge in The Mirror and obtain a quick sense of Brown's obvious politi-

cal triumph. With every new technological development, journalists seek some profound or threatening effect on newspapers. I am not sure there are any. Yet newspapers obviously can't rival the Internet for speed, and the Net appeals to a young constituency who aren't natural newspaper readers and whom editors are desperately trying to reach. So they are going to have to improve and speed up their act and think more imaginatively if they want to compete online with such news organisations as the BBC. That also means selling star columnists on the Net and linking online newspapers direct

to newspaper newsrooms. Net readers, as Simon Waldman of The Guardian says, are promiscuous and return only to sites that deliver.

Newspapers obviously cannot compete with the sheer volume of information on the Net — but they can, as The Times now does, publish links to the Web from news and features. So one major role for

The Net: so much, so fast — so what? will be to help readers to navigate the Net's avalanche of information. I want to be complacent about the Net but I can't. On Tuesday, the FT had a record

the newspaper, as access to

the Net becomes universal,

number of new registrations and its site and The Guardian's were visited by more than 50,000 readers, while PA recorded a 300 per cent increase in page impressions. Some-thing significant is going on out there in cyberspace but nobody yet knows what to do



THE TIMES & DILLONS FORUM in association with The Word Brain (2010) to say all the sayane of more for the

Times readers are invited to a rare evening with John le Carré, one of Britain's bestselling novelists, on Sunday, March 28,

Introduced by the Editor of The Times, Peter Stothard, the internationally acclaimed author will talk about his life and work, and read from his latest novel Single & Single. If you would like to ask John le Carré a question, please e-mail johnlecarre@the-times.co.uk. For more details visit The Times/le carré website at www.the-times.co.uk/lecarre.html

The event, which forms part of The Word literary festival, will be held at the LSE Peacock theatre, Portugal Street, off Kingsway, London WC1. Tickets cost £9 and can be booked on 0171-863 8222

THE TIMES • DILLONS • FORUM

From Goldeneye to golden Eyre

IF YOU runed into Who Wants to be a Millionaire? A Touch of Frost or Goldeneye this week, you are doing your bit to aid ITV's ruthless drive to reverse its fortunes, causing painful gasps among competitors.

When Richard Eyre, chief executive of the ITV network, set a target of 39 per cent of peak evening view-ing 12 months ago for 1999 he was called brave to his face, mad behind his back. Now, he tells me, the running total so far this year is a 40.4 per cent share with a majority of new series in the top ten. And that is before the impact of shifting News at Ten. Adverts for the next Director-General of the BBC go out this weekend. Eyre is near the top of the list.

TTS like Bank Holiday every night," lamented a senior BBCl executive as he watched the channel's share collapse nightly. The ending of News at Ten, clearing four hours for prime-time entertainment, represents a major shift in the ground

down to banishing news. BBCI's performance last Sunday, a shattering reduction in share to 21 per cent. has led to heart-searching over whether. Peter Salmon, controller of BBCl,

should have insisted that The Lakes run on Sundays. Lots of swear words had to be cut to make it suitable for a Sabbath, which explains some strange "out of lip synch" sequences. It wasn't just bad dubbing.

■ I WATCHED the at 6.30pm with Baroness Thatcher on one side, and Sir Denis on the other, at a lavish party thrown by ITN. They were unimpressed with the opening ten-minute photo opportunity given to Gordon Brown and wandered off with Michael Portillo. It struck me that Labour grandees were in short supply. The explana-

rules of British TV. But it is not all down to banishing news. BBCl's per-kled by the Independent Television

AMID all the publicity given to Carlton's purchase of Planet 24 from Commission's (ITC) decision to allow News at Ten to 20. The ITC's standing as regulator of all UK commercial television is not high either.

launch of the new ITV Evening News 1 am told that that is why Lord Hol-nership flourish or founder?

me of Cheltenham, the former Lib-Dem Northern Ireland spokesman, and trusted Blairite "gofer", has become deputy chairman of the ITC. Government Ministers are also raising cycbrows over the ITC's current consultation to see whether Internet content can be regulated. It is seen

Sir Bob Geldof and Lord Alli. note that it is the first and certainly not the last deal by Steven Cain, Carlton Communication's new chief executive. He joined arch-Tory

Michael Green's TV company in January, after serving as marketing director for Asda. Green has a reputation to live down -- as being hard to work for. Insiders gasp that they have seen him defer to Cain during meetings. Will this part-

■ WHAT is the mystery that accom-

panies any Big Fight Night on Sky? Why, the time of the event! Adverts for this weekend's Holyfield/Lewis encounter abound, but don't say when the main action from Madison Square Garden is likely to be. Sky is always curiously coy on this

thinks it will put off viewers if it says fans will have to stay up until 5am. for example. But this is downright inconvenient when accurate information would allow fans to choose between going bed and getting up early or staying up. I declare an interest. My husband buys all Sky's payper-view boxing events. I'm fed up with the way it ruins Sunday. The rules of PPV television differ from free TV. More information please boxing fans are highly motivated.

point. The reason, of course, is that it

■ TREVOR McDONALD assures me that ITV's new current affairs show. Tonight, will now start on April 9 - and he's fronting it. But there is tension between ITN and Granada, which insists that the show belongs to the Manchesterbased company. It wants to launch with some big exclusive stories in

■ maggiebrown_media@btinternet.com

ME CALLED TO CHE TO THE HOTTEST

And now . . . the ex-girlfriend of the boyfriend of the wife of the boyfriend of Anthea









The chain of lovers that the tabloids find irresistible: clockwise from left, Carissa Mitchell, Anthony Constanduros, Della Bovey. Anthea Turner and Grant Bovey

" artyrdom," wrote George Bernard Shaw in The Devil's Disciple, "is the only way in which a man can become famous without abllity."

mous without abllity."

This week, however, The Mirror has shown us that, in the modern age, there is another, far simpler method. On Tuesday it devoted the whole of page three io a story about Carissa Mitchell, a former girlfriend of Della Bovey's new boyfriend.

Della Bovey, you will remember, is the estranged wife The enduring obsession with the love lives of Anthea Turner and Grant Bovey is becoming absurd, says Carol Midgley

of Grant Bovey, the new boyfriend of the television presenter Anthea Turner. Just to recap, then, that's a

Just to recap, then, that's a whole page of a national daily newspaper taken up by the former girlfriend of the new boyfriend of the estranged wife of the new boyfriend of the current presenter of the Wish You Were Here holiday programme. Confused? Well, who wouldn't be?

The tenacity of newspapers in wringing the very last drops from a juicy story is legendary. But Fleet Street's current obsession with the Turner/Bovey story has shown to what absurd lengths the pursuit of the modern celebrity

When Turner first announced that she and Bovey, a father of three, were leaving their spouses to set up home to-

thony Constanduros, the new gether, there were those who questioned whether this was "toyboy lover" of Mrs Bovey. Last week a pack of journalists really a story worthy of frontdescended on Constanduros's page splash news. Whether one agrees or not, how relehome in West Sussex, some of whom admitted to being privant can it be now 15 months down the line and four stages vately bemused at the ferocity removed from the celebrity with which the newsdesks were chasing the story.

The Mirror was far from being the only newspaper which was prepared to invest time and money on seeking out Anandem of the National Union of Journal-

ists, to manage the situation.

Conroy, who did not ask for a fee, used the Press Association to put out a photograph of Constanduros to stop the media chase. It was accompanied by a statement pleading for privacy as well as a reminder of the privacy clause in the

Press Complaints Commission Code.

"The situation was ridiculous," says Conroy, "I'm a journalist but I just couldn't see the
story. Anthony is an ordinary
guy but they were offering
members of his family — even
his grandmother — sums of
£20,000 to talk about him. It
went on for days. He was
shocked. He could not believe
how much interest there was
in him, never mind his former
girlfriend."

down, and Carissa Mitchell, who was able to tell us riveting details like she and Constanduros used to "go to local pubs or stay in and cook", has had ber 15 minutes of fame.

But at least she cannot be accused of doing a kiss-and-sell. As is expected of celebrities these days, Mitchell asked instead that a donation be made to Comic Relief

Little voice making big waves

t is not often that the little man chasing an impossible dream succeeds. But Noah Samara, an Ethiopian-American, is getting close. It was surely wildly implausible for a private citizen to suggest that you could revolutionise communications and entertainment in the Third World by sending up three private sector satellites — one each for Africa and the Middle East, Latin America and Asia — devoted to radio.

Asia — devoted to radio.

It has taken him nearly ten years but, last Friday, anyone jogging through St James's Park in Central London could have seen a small, excited group of people pointing an unusual-

looking radio towards the sky. Coming in loud and clear from the first World-Space satellite, launched in November, was digital radio direct from Johannesburg.

The satellite is aimed at the African continent but is performing so well that the signal

that the signal can be picked up in Europe as well. Two more satellites will be launched later this year as part of a project worth more than \$1 billion.

The success of Samara, based in Washington DC, is a tribute to dogged determination. But formidable problems remain — the most obvious of all is to persuade people to buy the special radio receivers which have built-in satellite antenna. Financial realities — the cost of the receivers in particular — have forced Samara to drift far from his original concept: to provide communications for the information of the statement of the same and the sam

tion-deprived poor.

With receivers costing between \$250 and \$300, the initial target audience is affluent South Africans in remote places and the oil-rich of the Middle East. It is hoped that early sales will drive down the cost of the receivers so that a wider audience can afford them. Samara's goal is 500,000 receiv-

ers in use by the end of the first year of service. His philanthropic goals have not been abandoned entirely. About 5 per cent of the capacity of the satellites will be available to groups such as the World Health Organisation to broadcast educational material.

Samara will struggle in his drive to turn World-Space into a serious business but the consequences, should he succeed, could be profound. The receivers will soon be able to receive vast amounts of digital data, including the text of newspapers, which can be downloaded in seconds.

First indications, apart from the obviously untypical Budget Day, is that viewers will get considerable choice at opm and 6.30pm in the news agendas on offer from the BBC and ITV. On Monday, the first day of the new regime, the BBC offered sto-

ries such as the right to roam in the countryside, the problems with breast implants and the Northern Ireland deadline extended.

ITV carried stories such as a less-than-totally revealing interview with the Chancellor, Sir Bernard Ingham's contretemps with his neighbour, and a special on teenage female smokers.

A clue to what was going on came from Stewart Purvis, the chief executive of Independent Television News, interviewed for Channel 4's And Finally programme: "The dynamic is really news attracting the kind of audiences that advertisers want to buy, and the channel controllers sitting there saying If I want those kind of advertisers, I need this kind of content. I need the news to deliv-

er this kind of audience."

"This is complete heresy, of course, to the founding fathers of television news who believed that you had a public service."

Indeed it is.

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PASSPORT TO PARIS

TOKEN 6

CHANGING TIMES

Give News 24 a chance

erald Kaufman, whose book My Life In The Silver Screen accountably missed the best-sellers list, tells us that News 24 has "hardly any" viewers. Sir Paul Fox, the former Managing Director of BBC Television, writes in The Daily Telegraph (circulation just over a million) that BBC News 24 (watched by more than five million) is "unseen". And Sir Marmaduke Hussey, who takes some of the credit for launching Radio 5 Live as a round-the-clock channel for

too far for television.

The sins attributed to News 24 by its critics are legion. The birth of the channel is claimed to be responsible for everything from budget cuts on The World Tonight to the loss of

news and sport, thinks that what is right for radio is a step

In fact, the most potent charge against the BBC is not that it launched News 24 but that it was late into a market which is vital for its future. The argument is simple. In homes with just the terrestrial channels, BBC News is watched for 1.49 hours per person per week but in households with cable and satellite that figure falls to 0.76 hours.

There is also a qualitative

perception: multi-channel viewers are far less likely to think of the BBC as the first place they would turn to for fast, authoritative, breaking news. In those circumstances, the BBC had a clear choice. Either it could engage with the fact that audiences want news in a form and at a time convenient to them - or it could cling to the line that 1pm, 6pm and 9pm are the only times for the national news experience. It would, I believe, have been the greater arrogance if the BBC had stuck to a table d'hôte menu in an age of choice.

There is an argument that Sky News was there already, so there was no need for the BBC to wade in. I like Sky but I don't like the idea that it

Critics of the 'unseen' channel say it is bleeding the BBC dry. But Roger Mosey argues that they are misinformed



Gavin Esler, BBC News 24's evening anchorman

should be the only provider of 24-hour television news. I am equally opposed to the cable operators, mine included, who are dropping Sky News in favour of News 24. Choice should mean exactly that, and we want News 24 to win on its own merits and not because it is the only show in town.

And we believe that it is winning. Each week 5.1 million people watch News 24 either on its overnight BBC1 service or via cable and digital satellite. In digital homes it has rapidly established itself as one of the most watched channels.

The commentators who prefix "News 24" with the adies.

The commentators who prefix "News 24" with the adjective "unwatched" would have to say the same for Sky if real viewing data were their source. That would be a nonsense, too, because audiences for continuous news channels are low at some times of the day. It is true of the American market as well as the UK. The power is with the consumer, and they may choose to watch at 9am or at 11.30pm. The aim is not to win millions of viewers at one time but to encourage people to use the channel over a period.

o is it the editorial failures of News 24 that provoke the criticism? It is true there were rough edges early on, and we paid a price for being too ambitious with technology. We had a choice, though. The BBC of the past would have steamed ahead with old working practices at a higher cost but News 24 embraces the digital era and is willing to push the boundaries of broadcasting.

of broadcasting.
That is not, however, at the expense of quality. I defy anyone who saw the joint News 24

and BBC World coverage of the funeral of King Hussein of Jordan to say that the new style of extended live broadcasting undermines our reputation. John Simpson and Brian Hanrahan led continuous global coverage, which made CNN look second-rate; from Northern Ireland to the sacking of Glenn Hoddle. News 24 has offered viewers direct access to stories as they unfold.

Alastair Campbell has a point about the virtue of the new services: with the decline of parliamentary reporting and the rise of the soundbite. there is a gain for democracy in allowing voters to be exposed to opinion-formers with arguments worth developing. And can we afford it? As Ian Hargreaves, former Editor of The Independent, remarked: You could buy a year of News 24 and the whole of the BBC's Internel service for less than the cost of Radio 3." Hard to see then how the channel could be responsible for bleed-

ing the corporation dry.
News 24 is a channel for the future. That may sound like managerial bluster, so let me make three predictions. One: News 24 will have even more viewers in a year's time than it does now. Few channels can predict this, but we can. Two: will enjoy the same change in perception as Radio 5 Live. What started as a derided shotgun marriage of news and sport is now Sony Station of the Year, recognised for pioneering a fresh approach to speech broadcasting. Three: within the next decade News 24 will become the first choice for BBC News, guaranteeing information when you want it

in the digital era.

It is time to end the muddled thinking and misinformation about the channel. The creativity of the new generation seems to me infinitely preferable to the old British disease of carping from the sidelines.

● Roger Mosey is Acting
Director, Continuous News BBC

Little voice making big waves

Get me a Yemeni chief on the phone

Cht show researchers have a had time, but so do those on Toay, says Henry Bonsu

issued P45s to three members of staff and a freelancer from The Vanea Show for using bogus guestincluding fake feuding sister: and fraudulent fatfetishts. The sackings, after a BBC ivestigation, will heighten the fear and loathing amon researchers working on sue programmes.

Oncread of mine who toils on a val show has seen her worklid rocket and morale plumet since her bosses insisted on new safeguards again hoaxers. The pressure to stofakes slipping through is nowo great that she hardly eats osleeps.

Likemany others, I imagine, who work on pro-grames such as Kilroy (BBCland Trisha (ITV), she is seriouty considering her futureRoger Bolton, the presentenf Channel 4's Right to Reply, has already spoken abouthe ridiculous demands on theesearchers working for daily swnmarket shows. But, as he just know, even oo the most əmarket programmes. what iexpected of a researcher camover between the sublime, ie ridiculous and the downght dangerous.

Dung a space of kidnap-pings by Yemeni tribesmen four yers ago. I was working on Rao 4's Today: I remember gigling nervously when a produc asked me to get an Englis-speaking Yemeni tribal lead on the end of a satellite place for 7.30am the followinglay. He wasn't joking.

.....

If I hd known then what I know ow, perhaps I could have booked the leader throug the agency that supplied Tisha and The Vanessa Show Using traditional research methods. after four hours had to tell the producer thatve might have to make do withhe Yemeni Ambassador to ondon. He gave me the look that every researcher dreads: "You've failed me." Fear of that look drives most ambitious researchers the extra mile to "deliver" for their immediate boss, even if it means using slightly underhand means. I was so desper-ate to persuade the former Ulster MP Bernadette McAliskey to appear on Today that I casually mentioned the fact that I was black. Using the line from The Commitments. The Irish are the blacks of Europe", certainly does not appear in the producer's guidelines, but it worked. Mrs McAliskey, who was furious with the BBC over her treatment by another programme, agreed to be interviewed by us

the following morning. The look can also push you to take nerve-racking risks. During the Parkhurst prison breakout a few years ago, a man telephoned claiming that he was Norman Parker, a former prison inmate and author of Parkhurst Tales. He said the escapers had obviously got their idea from his book about life inside. I had no idea whether he was telling the truth but I took down his details and excitedly passed them on to the duty editor.

"Is he genuine?" I was asked. "Oh, yes," I said, hoping, not having even seen the book. It was at the fag end of a 12-hour shift so there our conversation ended, both of us tac-itly assuming that somehow it would get checked — by some one else. A few hours later I listened in terror as Parker gave the presenters an exhilarating account of his time in Parkhurst. What if he was a fake? Thankfully he was genuine. I got a pat on the back, and watched proudly as he did a tour of programmes, including the One O'Clock News.

More often than not, researchers who slip up during outlandish quests lack guid-



ance from producers, who can be strangely reluctant to pass on the benefits of their experience. Researchers ask few questions, fearing they will be deemed "not up to the job". Because there is little or no formal training for the role — it is assumed that you can do it if you have a degree — most peo-ple stumble on blindly, praying that one of their hundreds of speculative calls will yield the desired interviewee.

Some years ago I was researching a programme on the Animal Liberation Front for a now defunct current affairs programme. The producer begged me to use my "on the ground" contacts to find a cell of the ALF from which we could interview someone. As any researcher knows, no rule- book can help. I had to plead with journalists who had previously covered the story, stake out suspected hangouts of radical vegans and give my home telephone number to anybody remotely connected with animal rights. After two weeks of frustra-

tion I rang an old university friend who had apparently become an eco-warrior. She knew a hunt saboteur who, after some persuading, took my producer, reporter and myself to an Oxfordshire wood to meet three individuals in balaclavas and army fatigues.

ut after returning to the office in triumph, I was grilled by the programme editor, who balked at the idea of giving them airtime.

To our dismay he told my producer and me that the ALF could not be interviewed on the ground that they were "terrorists who shouldn't be given the oxygen of publicity". On another occasion I was

kinesia", an unpleasant sideeffect of some antipsychooc drugs - a job any researcher could do by consulong the British National Formulary. But my reporter wanted to create a tabloid splash by getting a celebrity to confess that they, or a relative, had been treated with these drugs - and had been afflicted with tardive dyskinesia.

asked to look into "tardive dys-

So off went the speculative letters to high-profile pop stars and actors - all of whom were reputed to have either suffered from mental illness, stress, alcoholism or drug addiction. or to have it in the family. had no idea whether they had even been treated with anopsychodes, let alone gone on to suffer from TD, but that didn't matter. It was a wild goose chase - one that probably caused the subjects some

offence - but to the lowly

I realised that this was no longer the world for me when I found myself in Birmingham

researcher, even the most un-

hinged orders are still orders.

one night sitting in the car of a man whose nickname was "Killer". He told me wild stories about gun-carrying and extreme violence that made him ideal for a BBC black-on-black on violence. But "Killer" was ruled out by a senior producer because he no longer carried a gun and I could not prove how dangerous he was.

Perhaps it would have helped if I had returned to the office with a bullet-ridden flak jacket or a sawn-off shotgun bearing his fingerprints.

So next time you pity the poor downmarket researcher. spare a thought for their upmarket cousin who is probably just as close to a nervous breakdown — and a P4S.

Monica at the heart of a new plot

Nothing sells like a scandal -TV catches on to Washington's dramatic potential for ratings. Report by Susan Karlin

e may think that enough of Moni-ca Lewinsky, but LA thinks not. Her essence will live on in Hollywood, thanks to a new TV series expected to hit the US next autumn. It's called DC (it was originally called Interns) and it's about young Washington DC interns. Despite the sim-

ilarioes. The WB Network, one of America's newer terrestrial channels, is tiptoeing around the obvious comparisons. "We want to stay away from the Monica thing," says a spokesman. "li's not a thing we want to promote."

The ensemble Dick Wolf, creator of Law & Order, the Emmywinning legal and crime drama, and the film writer John Aug-ust. The WB has ordered a pilot and is expected ries pick-up in the spring.

DC features

luscious twentysomethings - this is Hollywood, after all - embarking on low-level jobs in Washington. While Ms Lewinsky isn't expected to

make an appearance herself, there will be plenty of sexual intrigue. "Isn't that what goodlooking 23 and 24-year-olds do?" Wolf joked with reporters at a recent Television

Critics Association (TCA) press tour in California. Despite scandal-laced political films such as Wag the Dog, TV has tended to shy away from Washington as a backdrop. Shadowing a real scandal in a TV show is tricky as it risks following an already oversaturated media event and often pales beside a real-life counter-part. After the O.J. Simpson

trial, Steven Bochoo, creator

of the TV police series

NYPD Blue, aoempted

Murder One, a drama cov-

trial, which was hugely popular in Britain but lasted only a season in the US.

DC will focus less on poli-

ties and more on the ideals. moral choices, and their consequences, of young Senate aides, lobbyists, TV news producers and Supreme Court clerks.

"It's not party-orientated," Wolf told Daily Varierv. an enjertainment trade magazine. "I hope to get through 110 episodes without ever using the words Republican or Democrat. It's no more a political show than LA Law was a legal

Meanwhile, political scandal also inspired sode of Law & There will Order on NBC this spring. In it. be plenty a Kenneth Starrlike prosecutor of sexual takes on New York detectives in a plot that intrigue evokes images of without es surrounding the real suicide of Vince Foster, Monica the White House

> the discovery of a body in New York that looks like a suicide, then isn't, and is ded to the White House, says Wolf. "There is a special prosecutor who wants information that a detective doesn't think he has a right to.I wouldn't say that it evolved from the White House scandal, but it's in the national consciousness. We take the headlines not

lawyer.

the body copy."

If DC is a success. The WB only half-jokes abou controversy. You don't want to drive away advertisers, but nothing promotes a show like a scandal. It was the conservative backlash against Married ... With Children that helped to put Fox TV on the map, "I don't think DC's going to cause a boycott," jokes The WB's Susanne Daniels. "But I'm go-

ing to look for one."

Will we see ads on the BBC?

"ADMN say no to more ads" is a posible headline for a story inviving the resurrection of onesf the oldest chestnuts in the JK media scene: a call for the BC to take ads.

The ry is being heard at this wek's annual British TV adversing sales conference (in Barelona, naturally), and the bale is being led by the Incorported Society of British Adversers (ISBA), which rep-resent the nation's advertisers. Thissue is never far from the suface at the conference, one o the few platforms to which advocates for such a move lave access each year. But IBA is deadly serious aboutts call. What lies behind it is agertisers' natural desire to alleiate inflation in the cost of TV dvertising airtime.

ISB is preparing its sub-missio to the Davies Committee orthe funding of the BBC. In the past it has argued that some overnment advertising shoul be shifted to the corporatio and that there should be linted advertising — three mimes a day in peak time, say, s latest proposals will includedemands that the BBC face the same commercial

Agencies have always resisted the ISBA's proposals. Research found little enthusiasm for such a move, and agencies

fear it will make the ad industry appear greedy (greedier!) in the public's eyes. Where the Institute of Practidoners in Advertising (IPA) concurs with the ISBA is in regard to commercial constraints. Agencies and maga-zine publishers bristle at the way the Beeb cross-promotes its magazines, for instance, and there's the matter of backdoor sponsorship such as the Camelot. So expect

much huffing and puffing about ads on the Beeb as the ISBA exerts pressure on agen-cies to support them. and agencies decline to do so. And there the matter will rest - until

TBWA won overall gold at Wednesday's British Television Advertising Awards for



cial "double life". Other winners included Guinness (the old Italian man in a swimming race). The Independent (the cinema commercial "litaand Sony Camcorders.



ny"), and Lego, Yellow Pages There's nothing terrible about this list of ads; they are well-made and have advertising ideas, but something about

A still from Sony Playstation's winning ad

the winners bothered a few observers. It's not just that my own favourite, the VW Polo's "selfdefence", got silver; it was more how out of kilter this list is with the ads that

the public loves. Ads such as those for Guinness, The Independent and, to a degree, PlayStation are born of fantastic rechnical virtuosity behind the camera and painstaking post-production magic in Soho editing suites. They achieve a perfectionism that the ad industry, with its ex-traordinarily high production budgets per second of screen-

time, has come to expect. They are not de-void of advertising ideas - though I'd argue that the Guinness and The Independent spots are beautiful films rather than great ads. The problem is that these are not the ads that have captured people's imaginations in the way the Gold Blend couple, Papa and

py, and the Levi's and Tango series once did, and One 2 One and Walkers crisps do now. Some formulas are bound to

be popular in the living room - celebrities, furry animals and soap opera plots. There is no reason that awards juries should have to laud them just because they are popular. But the great campaigns of the past 25 years have managed to marry criocal (ie. industry) acclaim with commercial and popular success.

Think back to Hamlet and Heineken, Carling Black La-bel and BT, Barclaycard and Tesco. That list is probably now headed by Walkers, One 2 One and Volkswagen, which won minor awards on Wednesday night. But there's no room for the likes of Peugeot: adverosing the public likes, that sells cars in droves, but won't win a creaove award - ever. Next year, we'll probably see

the more populist ads winning again. I hope so, because it would be dangerous for the ad industry to be even more selfcongratulatory and insulated.

 Stefano Hatfield is the Editor of Campaign.

EXCLUSIVE OFFER CARBON MONOXIDE **PORTABLE ALARM** •use with gas fires boilers

cookers

water heaters

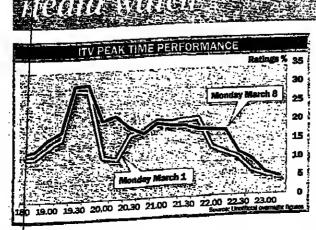
he First Alert portable carbon monoxide alarm is designed to detect the presence of hazardous gas leaks before they reach a dangerous level. This battery-operated alarm emits a powerful audible and visual warning against carbon monoxide, the lethal gas which is invisible, odourless and tasteless. The detector can be wall or ceiling

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CHANGING TIMES



its new evening schedule replacing News at Ten. According to unofficial overnight figures. the new ITV Evening News, at 6.30pm, slightly outperformed the previous Monday's edition of News at Ten. The first, brightly coloured ITV Evening News had an audience figure of 7.2 million, compared with 6.9 million for last Monday's News at Ten. Previously, ITV's Early Evening News, at 5.40pm, drew in around 4.5 million viewers.

Across the evening the rest of the peak-time scheduled ITV programmes also recorded slight weekly increases in their respective time slots. The uninterrupted drama and film slot at

9pm featured Kavanagh QC, which gained a 46 per cent (10.3 million) share of viewing. ITV claims a 48 per cent share of viewing across the whole of the Monday evening; the network's target for this year is to achieve an average 39 per cent of peak-time viewing. The ITV Nightly News, at 11pm, was watched by 3.1 million viewers, which is roughly the same for

 MediaTel's online media information and analysis service is accessed via the Internet at http://www.mediatel.co.uk (0171-439 7575)

aged around 5.8 million viewers.

the various different regional programmes

shown at 11pm last Monday. News at Ten aver-

EDUCATION

Are your children ready for this?

Guides can boost revision for national curriculum tests, says John O'Leary

□ National curriculum tests have assumed great importance and sales of the guides produced jointly by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, the Stationery Office and The Times have increased rapidly. Many schools now encourage home preparation. All three of the age groups tested nadonally are covered by the series of paperback books,

the only ones to include actual questions used in last year's tests. A single guide covers the assessment of seven-year-olds, and there are separate books for English, mathematics and science at 11 and 14.

This year's tests begin after Easter, but the guides are best used over an extended period to familiarise pupils with the form of

assessment they can expect. The tests are the nearest that most children will come to a public examination before GCSE. The questions below offer a flavour of the two guides for primary children. The guides sponsored by this newspaper are available in mainstream bookshops, as well as through the offer at the foot of this page.

KEY STAGE ONE: 6-7 YEARS

adonal testing conjures up an image rows and working furiously. At the age of seven, at least, it is not like that. The assessment regime has been designed to get the most out of children by mirroring normal classroom activity.

The process, which marks the end of Key Stage One of the national curriculum, takes place over several weeks. Although there are formal tests in mathematics, reading and spelling, much of the assessment takes place in small groups with the class teacher. Results in mathematics and

spelling improved last year, but children continued to find writing the most difficult of the tasks set. Few used paragraphs, and adjectives and adverbs were rare in seven-yearolds stories. Most children coped well

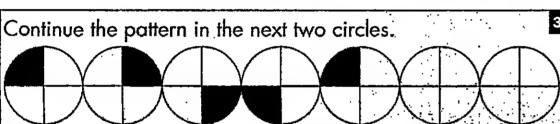
with simple words in the spell-ing test, but they had difficulty with vowel phonemes and double consonants that represent a single sound, such as in "suddenly".

The mathematics test focused mainly on numbers, although there were some quesoons on data-handling and shapes. Just over half the children could work out the difference between 12 and 16, but fewer than half could calculate the change from 5-tp after buying five pencils at 10p each. No major changes are planned for this year's tests.

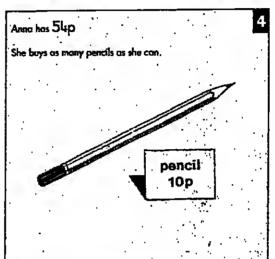


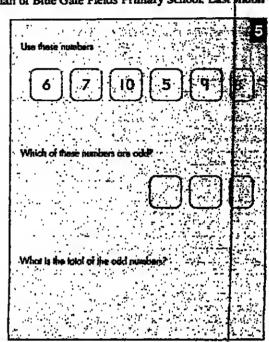
can not swim











THE

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Calls cost £1, of which 65p goes to Comic Relief. The more times you enter, the more money goes to the chanty *Prize of a Peugeot 206 does not include insurance. No cash alternative. Promoter, Virgin Radio

See The Times next week for your chance to win thousands of Free Books for Schools tokens

CHANGING TIMES

KEY STAGE TWO: 10-11 YEARS

be lests marking the end of Key Stage Two of the national curriculum are the most sensitive set by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority because of their use in primary school league tables.

But they come too late in the year to be used for secondary school selection, or even the allocation of sets in most compre-

Eleven-year-olds encounter their first science tests, but English and, particular-

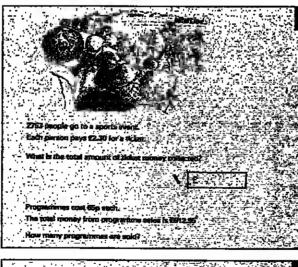
ly, mathematics cause more problems. In cure when it came to addition | subspite of some improvement in results. only 65 per cent reached the expected Level 4 in English last year, while the success rate for mathematics slipped back to 59

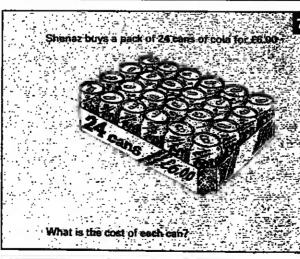
per cent.

The new mental arithmetic test presented most difficulty. The 20 questions be-came progressively barder, and written work was discouraged but not penalised. Multiplication caused problems in the written tests but children were more se-

As at the earlier stage, 11-yearlds did better at reading than writing In the spelling test, vowels caused mostifficulty, especially in irregular wordsuch as special and journey.

Children were more successf in science: 69 per cent reached the expited level for their age. As in maths and inglish, this year's tests will be similar topose set





THE ANSWERS

1. Sam: I can not swim. I am 7 years old. Tina: I can swim. I am 6 years old. Kim: I can not swim. I am 10 years old. Bill: I can swim. I am 7 years old.

- 2. The clock should show ten to seven.
- 3. See below.
- 4. Four pence.
- 5. Odd numbers are S, 7, 9. Total 21.
- 6. Total ticket money collected is £6,331.90. Programmes sold: 943. 7. Each can costs 25 pence.





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THE TIMES FRIDAY

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There is growing becoming too co

short break - continue - coto 3 in the morning That is not the description, if a cary in the life of a merchant be City lawyer has the self-time posed timetable of an involvin-Traditionally, A source of a been the great intellection of the dle facing schoolclottee . I a there is evidence that, many youngsters on s. may be more street, as the system where even A 272223 can be starred. Britain's tract. est In-year-olds are new man-

victims of a culture mercure by ly seeking perfection. Eighteen-veur-old Satter Razahusein, whose dam serveule begins this article. hright and ambinous Asia ... student who attends one of the leading schools in the West Midlands, Since Christmas she has been studying tor see. eral hours a night. And twice a week she works through the night. Satisful does not consider such practices exception an these are merely the work. The habits she picked up aurous

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Beam

A school has linked up with space, says Iola Smith

ussian cosmonauts have performed some unusual tasks during the turbulent lifetime of the Mir space station. But it is safe to assume that they never expected to be opening a Welsh comprehensive.

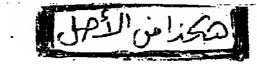
Later this month the orbiting craft will declare the rebuilt Stanwell School in Penarth. Vale of Glamorgan, officially open. The message will be received at the school by Yuri Glaskov, a cosmonaut from Moscow's Star City, and George Abbey, the director of Nasa. Both dress staff and students as part well's space project.

The school's interest in spaback in 1994 when Geoff Mules -turned-Texan-businessman, de offer a bursary to allow sixth-fo visit Nasa's space centre at Ho Richard Palmer, an A-level

who spent part of last summer i says: "We were taken around control, the astronaut training and Nasa's observatories. We e a chance to use the simulators come a 'challenge' at mission such as piloting a craft with a component through space and Earth's atmosphere.

dents able to experience Hou first hand, Chris Barber, Stanwe uty head teacher, was keen for a pupils to benefit from the Nasa: tion and so, as Stanwell's relati

Richard was one of only a



Why the Government needs mature students the first clues to Labour's plans for the next Parliament emerged this week with the news that civil servants

were examining the feasibility of half the population experiencing higher education by the age of 30. As hig ideas so it is restricted. As big ideas go, it is pretty modest because up to 45 per cent of the age group already sample university or college courses. But it is a pointer to government thinking. With mature students suffering

from the introduction of tuition fees, graduate employment shaky and questions being asked about course quality, the benefits of further expansion can no longer be taken for granted. But the thinking that lay be-

hind this week's Budget investment in "computers for all" also suggests that as many people as possible should take higher qualifications.

We may question whether the nation needs a further injection of sociology graduates or engineers, but even the current expansion of higher education is not about more of the same. The extra numbers planned at present are mostly in sub-degree courses for technicians and clerical workers, and often based in further education colleges rather than uni-

The longer-term model under consideration by David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, is designed to revive

by combining full and part-time study in a new way. Part-time numbers have continued to grow at a time when the new fees have made older students think twice about taking a degree. A relatively short fulltime introductory course followed by a longer period of part-time study would spread the costs more widely and might be seen as the best of both worlds by people who cannot afford lengthy career break.

Unless there is a transformation in public attitudes to education, however, even such limited expansion of the university system will require some stimulation of demand. Predictably enough, students are becom-

ing more hard-headed about the courses they take since the introduction of tuition fees. Although the new courses would probably be largely vocational, many of the twenty somethings—the Government wants to anract will not have the necessary qualifications to benefit.

Conversion courses for those wanting to switch academic track and access courses for those who never got on to the track in the first place will he central to meeting the Government's target. But are they a serious preparation for higher education, or merely a way of covering up the poor quality of the intake at some

A report published yesterday by

the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) is reassuringly positive. Not only does it signal new controls on the standard of access courses, but it finds that most have done well for their students. There is no informarion on the class of degree awarded to former access course students, but the report finds that they have been no more likely to fail or drop out than those entering by the conven-

tional route. First introduced 20 years ago, these access courses now involve more than 14,000 students. The subjects that access students choose sub-sequently tend to be those of national shortage, making the courses even more important in the future

planning of ministers. About \$5 per cent go on to degree programmes, most commonly in nursing, social work, teacher-training or computing. Almost all the students are over 21 and a higher proportion than on other courses come from ethnic minurities and poor families.

The QAA's new recognition scheme, which sets out to ensure that students reach a suitable standard for entry to higher education, should weed out the minority of courses that have put quantity above quality. If that can be guaranteed, many of the crioes of expanded entry to higher education will be silenced and the Government's tar-

'I worked so hard during my GCSEs, I rarely slept'

There is growing evidence that many pupils are becoming too competitive, writes Hannah Betts

by 8. Home at 5pm. With family until 7. Work until 1.30 short break - continue work to 3 in the morning. This is not the description of a day in the life of a merchant banker or City lawyer, but the self-im-posed timetable of an industrious 16-year-old GCSE student.

Traditionally, A levels have been the great intellectual hurdle facing schoolchildren. But there is evidence that, for many youngsters, GCSEs may be more strenuous. In a system where even A grades can be starred, Britain's brightest 16-year-olds are becoming victims of a culture increasingly seeking perfection. Eighteen-year-old Satim Ra-

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zahusein, whose daily schedule begins this article, is a bright and ambitious A-level studentwho attends one of the leading schools in the West Midlands Since Christmas, she has been studying for several hours a night. And twice a week she works through the night. Satim does not consider such practices exceptional; these are merely the working habits she picked up during her GCSEs.

"In my fourth year, in particular," she recalls, "I worked so hard that I rarely slept. I was making myself ill. Eventually. my form teacher did a survey to find out how much work we were doing on top of school lessons and the average was 30 hours a week. She told us to calm down."

Satim and her friends refused to accept this advice because the pressure to perform was internal, "No one made us work that hard," she adds. "My parents were worried, but there was nothing they could do: I would just shut my door and get on with it."

Satim gained ten As in her GCSEs, including five with stars, but still thinks that she could have achieved more. Such anecdotal evidence

that GCSEs are becoming the great testing point in a child's school career is supported by evidence from ChildLine, the national helpline for dis-tressed children. Of those young people phoning about exam stress who declared their age, 61 per cent were in the GCSE age group. In con-trast, 17-year-olds made up only 7 per cent of the statistic, and 18-year-olds, the age at which A levels are usually taken, only 4 per cent. In the aftermath of their traumatic GCSEs, many pupils appear to take A levels in their stride.

tudent desire to achieve the coveted starred As is exacerbated by the fact that GCS-Es are the only firm results for universities to use when offer-ing places ahead of A level. For courses such as law and medicine, they have become a prerequisite. At the same time, bright children can overestimate the standards required to reach this level. Until the results of her mocks, Satim was convinced that she was going to get disastrous grades.

Continuous assessment may have been designed to remove the pressure from endof-course exams, but for many

children it has merely extended what could be termed perfection anxiety across two years. Some parents link this pressure with inter-school competition brought on by league tables. This has led to accusations that some schools may be encouraging children to give up subjects in which they are expected to do less well be-cause their performance may blot an otherwise perfect record. Other parents accuse schools of making over-opti-mistic GCSE predictions to spur students on to the highest levels of achievement.

Schooled on the quick sprint of O level, parents can find themselves bemused by the mania that comes with GCSE stress. Jane Meades has watched three offspring sit GCSEs at comprehensives in St Albans.

"There is a lot of pressure now," she says, "Originally, it was confined to the competitive atmosphere at a few schools, but it's all of them now. And GCSE time can be hellish, with teachers thinking that their subject is the important one. As a parent, you feel helpless. I did have anxieties that they were overdoing it."

Parents used to become alert

to these problems only as the exam season approaches. ChildLine's calls rise steadily from January. Help is also at hand from the Parent Network, a national organisation offering parenting education to 2,000 people a year. Child-Line has produced a leaflet that gives children rational advice on exam preparation. A supporting booklet, Stressed



Out, offers advice to parents with sections on emotional support, danger signals and life

beyond revision. Valerie Howarth, the chief executive of ChildLine, summarises the problem: "Many GCSE pupils think that their whole future is swinging in the balance and some become suicidal. Children as young as 12 are calling the service with anxieties that their performance when it comes to GCSEs won't be good enough."

· Children can call ChildLine on 0800 1111. For a free copy of Exam Stress and How to Beat 11, contoct ChildLing, Freepost 1111, London N'1 OBR. The Parent Network is on

edpage@the-times.co.uk

Beam the class up, Nasa

A school has linked up with space, says

Iola Smith R ussian cosmonauts performed some unusual tasks during the turbulent lifetime of the Mir space station. But it is safe to assume that they never expected to be opening a Welsh comprehensive.

Later this month the orbit-ing craft will declare the re-built Stanwell School in Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan, officially open. The message will be received at the school by Yuri Glaskov, a cosmonaut from Moscow's Star City, and George Ab-

bey, the director of Nasa. Both will address staff and students as part of Stanwell's space project.

The school's interest in space dates back to 1994 when Geoff Mules, old-boy--turned-Texan-businessman, decided to offer a bursary to allow sixth-formers to visit Nasa's space centre at Houston.

Richard Palmer, an A-level student who speni part of last summer in Texas. says: "We were taken around mission control, the astronaut training centre and Nasa's observatories. We even had a chance to use the simulators to overcome a 'challenge' at mission control such as piloting a craft with a broken component through space and into the

Earth's atmosphere. Richard was one of only a few students able to experience Houston al first hand. Chris Barber, Stanwell's deputy head teacher, was keen for all 1,400 pupils to benefit from the Nasa connection and so, as Stanwell's relationship



Mission control: Richard Palmer with fellow pupils

with the space centre deepened, he hit on the idea of using the Internet to link the school with Nasa in a new way. So this term, Mr Barber and Mr Mules will launch a charity, the International Space School Foundation, at Stanwell.

Mr Barber explains: "We thought that Nasa's vast database could prove useful as a teaching tool in geography. science and psychology. But the difficul-ty would be trawling through the acres of material to find facts that would be relevant for, say, a 14-year-old studying volcanoes."

With assistance from the charity, the school will be able to establish a virtual exchange centre with Nasa. Teachers and technicians will be able to go through Nasa's data to extract features that are relevant for the national curriculum. The material, graded according to difficulty and tailored to the needs of specific age groups, will then be put on the Net to make it accessible to schools

worldwide. *Doorwa*y to t*h*e Universe will be structured as a journey through space. stopping at locations that will include the Earth, the Moon and the planets. There will be opportunities to compare features such as radiation and volcanic activity between Earth and the Moon. Students of geography and environmental science, with their focus on Earth, will be able to take advantage of Nasa's picture library of Earth, with its quarter of a million photographs covering everything from hurricanes to the effects of El Niño.

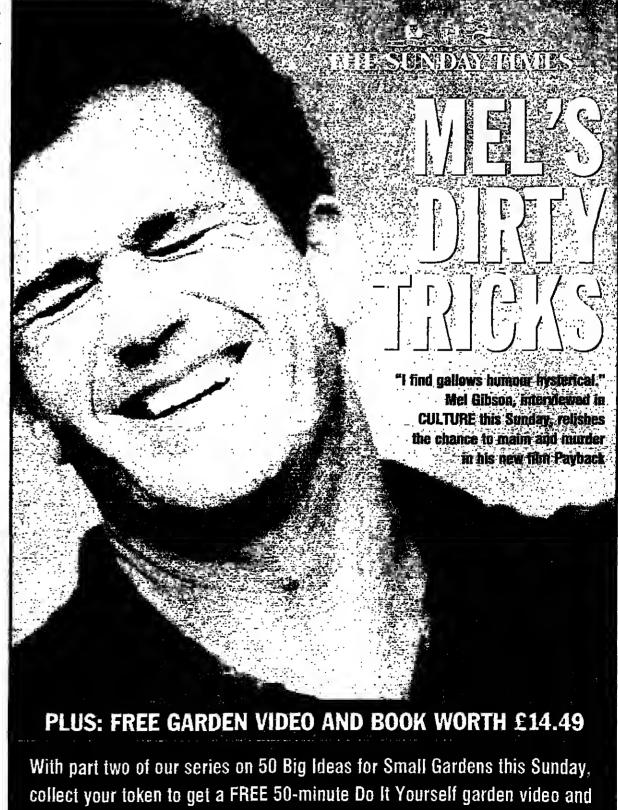
Once the material goes on the Net. Stanwell hopes that other schools will use it, adding topics that they

have been studying. "Our target." Mr Barber says, "is to have 2,000 schools using it by next year. We already have interest from schools in Britain and the United States."

Stanwell has long had electronic links with pupils in Sioux City, Iowa. Schoolchildren undertake joint research projects with their American email penfriends and learn about each other's culture. Enabling more pupils to experience a Nasa visit is the final part of Stanwell's

space project. The hope is that, for the millennium, a planeful of British students comprising Stanwell pupils and others who have contributed to the Net pages will go to Texas, and students from participating American schools will visit Britain.

In the long term, as the international space station comes to fruition, expected experiments devised by British schoolchildren may be tested on board.



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THE TIMES FRIDA

Clewlow can make crucial difference

By CATHY HARRIS AND SYDNEY PRISREN

DENIS BAKER, the Carserwer amon believes Mei Cimin the Incland defender muld be the key to the Kent wanten's club gaining recents tion to the premier division Contributy have tures played is the highest level, but if they was Bradford in their families and league fixture former ton the will be promoted as 555 division champions.

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With 14 goals to her create, second behind Tina Caller, of Hightown, Clewithers rath of 12 penalty corners is easily rise best strike rate in the leading With four materies wer to be

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there should be an excent race to finish in the total and to order to survive in the Control when the league is to The tured next scason ☐ The International Physics Federation (FIH) annixmen. yesterday that Perth is to the women's 2002 Works with Kuala Lampur states. the men's. Amsterdam of the venue for the Dian ments at a

women's Champions Tools

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AUSTRALIAN GR

DRIVERS: Qualifying points of each grand onx with a the f

M Hakkinen 30 points: 2nd 2 24; 4th R Barrichero 23, 5th 4: 7th G Fisichella 20: 8th P. Son. A Wurz 17; 11th J V. laneure 1 14: 14th P Diniz 13, 15th A Zai T Takagi 10: 18th P de la Poss Finishing points (scored for the the end of every grand pro . 1 HH Frentzen 50; 3rd Fi Scrum 5th R Barrichello 29; 6th ⊃ ≾e 8th M Schumacher 25, (Or) 3 (one point for each lap comple HH Frentzen 57: R Schumann R Barrichello 57, P de la Rosa 56; R Zonta 48; L Badber 42; / 25; J Trulli 25; O Pans 23, 14 D Coulthard 13; J Viceneuve 7 grid to finishing position P de la Rosa 36 points, T Taka 15; HH Frentzen 9; G Fisicher prix M Schumacher 10 points. resulting in a driver being mas lane (10 points deducted: M.S. R Barrichello -10. Did not finit deducted): R Zonta -10 ports: P Diniz -10; M Gene -10; J Trus -10; A Zanardi -10; D Coultnere J Alesi -10. Not starting after deducted): J Herbert -10 points (5 points deducted): none. CO

place: 200 points; third place: 3

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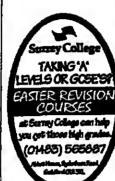
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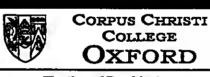
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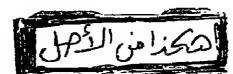
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BONUS POINTS apply to six g Formula One championship, the Correctly predicting whining

in the pit lane (5 points declar

With No



Clewlow can make crucial difference

By Cathy Harris and Sydney Friskin

DENIS BAKER, the Canterbury coach, believes Mel Clewlow, the England defender. could be the key to the Kent women's club gaining promo-tion to the premier division. Canterbury have never played at the highest level, but if they beat Bradford in their final national league fixture tomorrow, they will be promoted as first-

division champions. Baker, the England Un-der-16 coach, admits that Canterbury have secured their place at the head of the table through "good, solid team performances from everyone". but picks out Clewlow, the centre back. "She's fitter and faster than I've ever seen her and her vision and delivery of the long ball have been superb,"

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With 14 goals to her credit, second behind Tina Cullen, of Hightown, Clewlow's tally of 12 penalty corners is easily the best strike-rate in the league. With four matches yet to be

played in the men's national ague premier division, Cannock are five points clear at the top of the table and seem a safe bet to finish there. The main obstacles in Cannock's path are out of the way. The three other teams in contention for the top four places are Southgate, Canterbury and

Reading, still without the injured Wyatt, will visit Old Loughtonians on Sunday with the same side that defeated Canterbury 6-3 last week.
With only two matches

remaining in the first division, there should be an exciting race to finish in the top eight in order to survive in the division when the league is restructured next season.

☐ The International Hockey Federation (FIH) announced yesterday that Perth is to host the women's 2002 World Cup, with Kuala Lumpur staging the men's. Amsterdam is the venue for the 2000 men's and women's Champions Trophy.

Stains preaches the gospel of positivity

n his office at the Stoop Memorial Ground, the electricity had gone off. but Dan Stains was oblivious to the cold. He had been up since 2am working on training ideas for his London Broncos side and

was itching to get outdoors. "Everywhere you go, always take the weather with you. the Australian grinned. That song came to mind at Hull Kingston Rovers, where an icy gale and belligerent lower-division opponents al-most scuppered London's advance to the Silk Cut Challenge Cup quarter-finals. "It

made me realise what a good team we've got, because Hull KR would have beaten anyone. It was blowing 40mph off the sea, it was their Wembley, and we had to find a way out," Stains said. Martin Offiah located the escape roote with the only try in a grinding 6-0 win. As well

as the restoration of Offiah's scoring prowess after pro-tracted injury. Stains knew. too, that his instinct in handing the captaincy to Shaun Edwards had been right There were times at Hull when we could have cracked, but Shaun kept us going." Stains said. "He's a powerful person and a natural leader." The driven features of

Edwards at training are not the only difference at the club since the charismatic Stains, 34, from Balmain, arrived in January. Trevor Howard, the club's long-serving football manager, said: 'The place has never been as charged, nor the players quite so together, as under Dan." His religious beliefs, of which much have been

JOHN WHITAKER, who has quali-

fied for every World Cup showjump-

ing final since the event started in

1979, hopes to secure his place for

this year when he competes in the

Paris qualifier this weekend. His

younger brother, Michael, and Geoff

Billington make up the British repre-

sentation at the show which begins to-

day and, on Sunday, will stage the

ninth of the 12 World Cup qualifying

ready in the top 12 of the Western Eu-

Rugby league hopes are rising in London, Christopher Irvine finds

players' throats, though positive fervour abounds, and if they did not appreciate it before, the principle of sowing and reaping is ingrained. Stains said: 'The intuitive

side of competition is what spirituality is about. When acting on instinct, you're acting on what I believe is your God inside you. It's why I don't plan too far ahead.

"I believe I was destined to be here. Part of my mission is to establish rugby league in London. We are building towards the vision of a dominant club. I don't set goals,

We are building towards the vision of a

but we can win the Super League this year, because we have the team to beat Wigan,

dominant club?

Leeds, and the rest." After a semi-final appear ance last year and a season in which generally they flattered to deceive, Broncos' approach has been more low-key and their signings less flashy. The gradual anglicising of the club has continued with ten of the 25 squad now British.

Karle Hammond, from St Helens, forms a homegrown half-back combination with Edwards, while Dominic

Brooks and Ed Jennings (the first rugby league player to emerge from the Isle of Wight have been brought in from the development ranks.

dairy farm on the Darling Downs of Oueensland, is a product of the outstanding Australian junior system. As second-row forward, he represented Queensland and Australia and caught the bug for the British game during a six-month spell at Halifax in 1988, "when the Broncos were Fulham and looked upon as the backside of England in

rugby league terms". He pushed for the London job and was pleasantly sur-prised on his arrival. The here is way ahead of many Sydney clubs, which have been propped up by poker-machine money, especially in marketing and development,"

Australia is only ahead of England because of its junior development. London fights to get every kid playing. It's slowly succeeding. My vision is for a strong junior base in hand-pick London kids to play for London," he said. Victory in the home cup-tie

against Whitehaven on Sunday would leave the Broncos and Richard Branson, their chairman, one step from Wembley. "To strut my stuff there," Stains said, "would be something special." Worth the 2am starts, certainly.



Stains has the cuntentmeet of a man in control of affairs. Photograph: Andre Camara

Whitakers appear secure

ropean League, from which the first 19 are eligible for the final in Gothenburg next month. Whitaker, who in the past has often qualified at the last minute, is pleasantly surprised to find himself as high as ninth at this comparatively early stage. "I just The three British riders are alneed a few more points this weekend

to make certain," he said yesterday.

By JENNY MACARTHUR

With Virtual Village Welham now resting, Whitaker will rely on Heyman on Sunday. "He hasn't done a grand prix this year but he's been to a couple of shows and is jumping well," Whitaker said of the ten-yearold gelding. If he does qualify, he will

use Heyman in the final and possibly Grannusch, the 19-year-old on which he won the first two legs of the final last year, followed by the Olympia qualifier in December.

Billington will rides his best horse Virtual Village It's Otto, on which he was third in Paris last year. Having been as low as joint 34th a month

ago, he has climbed to eleventh by virrue of good performances in Bordeaux and Bologna last month. Michael Whitaker, who is lying third, with 43 points, is virtually assured of his place in Gothenburg. His consistent performances this sea-

son include third place at both Millstreel and Olympia. "I'm pleased to have the pressure of qualifying lifted. but I'd like to win one," he said. On Sunday, he will ride either Virtual Village Ashley or Hillon, who improves with each outing.

passes to the 2000 British Grand Prix. To enter a team for the Brazilian GP,

which offers up to 600 bonus points, or to make transfers, see details below

SNOOKER

Hendry's good practice pays off

FROM PHIL YATES IN SHANGHAI

STEPHEN HENDRY and Billy Snaddon, who for the past eight years have practised together regularly at Spencers Snooker Centre, Surling, will meet 6,500 miles away in the semi-finals of the China

internacional here tomorrow. Hendry, who edged Sieve Davis 5-4 on the black in the last 16, improved his play during a 5-2 victory over John Parron, while Snaddon achieved a personal best in a worldranking event by unexpectedly beating Stephen Lee 5-3.

"That's probably my best Hendry, who won the Scottish Open last month, said, "I can't remember missing an important ball from distance."

Parron failed to score in four frames as Hendry displayed ominous sharpness. The fourth, which gave the Scot a 3-1 lead at the mid-session interval, was of particular significance. Parrott built a 51-0 advantage before Hendry potted a long red to initiate a clearance of \$7.

"When you scrape through a match you should have lost. like 1 did against Sieve, it tends to relax you and that's how I felt out there," Hendry, who compiled a break of 107 in the sixth frame, said.

Snaddon's break-building was more modest but the result was paramount for the world No 32, who is now guaranteed £11,000, the biggest cheque of a professional career that began in 1991. The possi-bility of Scottish players monopolising the semi-final plac-es remains after a 5-4 win for Alan McManus over Mark King in the second round. He plays Ken Doherty today, while in the remaining quarter-final John Higgins meets Paul Davies, the world No 41.

Davies, from Cardiff, recovered from 2-0 and 58-0 adrift in the third frame to defeat Mark Williams, winner of the Thailand Masters in Bangkok

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AUSTRALIAN GRAND PRIX RESULTS

DRIVERS: Qualifying points (scored by qualifying for the start of each grand prix within the first 20 positions on tha grid): Pole M Helddnen 30 points; 2nd D Coulthard 25; 3rd M Schumacher 24; 4th R Barrichello 23; 5th H-H Frentzen 22; 6th E Irvine 21; 7th G Fisichella 20; 6th R Schumacher 19; 9th D Hill 18; 10th A Wurz 17; 11th J Villeneuve 16; 12th J Trulli 15; 13th J Herbert 14; 14th P Diniz 13; 15th A Zanardi 12; 16th J Alesi 11; 17th T Takaqi 10; 18th P de la Rosa 9; 19th R Zonta 8; 20th O Panis 7. Finishing points (scored for the top 20 classified positions at the end of every grand prix): 1st E irvine 60 points; 2nd HH Frentzen 50; 3rd R Schumacher 40; 4th G Fisichella 30; 5th R Barrichello 29; 6th P de la Rosa 28; 7th T Takagi 27; 8th M Schumacher 26. (Only 8 were classified.) Lap point (ona point for each lap completed): E Irvine 57 points; HH Frentzen 57; R Schumacher 57; G Flsichella 57; R Barrichello 57; P de la Rosa 57; T Takagi 57; M Schumache 56; R Zonta 48; L Badoer 42; A Wurz 28; P Diniz 27; M Gene 25; J Trulii 25; O Panis 23; M Hakkinen 21; A Zanardi 20; D Coulthard 13; J Villeneuve 13. Improv grid to finishing position (3 points for each improved place): P de la Rosa 36 points; T Takagi 30; E Irvina 15; R Schumacher 15; HH Frentzen 9; G Fisichella 9. Fastest lap time of grand prix M Schumacher 10 points. Penalty points incident resulting in a driver being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted): M Schumacher -10 points; R Barrichello -10. Did not finish the race (10 points deducted): R Zonta -10 points; L Badoer -10; A Wurz -10; P Diniz -10; M Gene -10; J Truiti -10; O Panis -10; M Hakkinen -10; A Zanardi -10; D Coulthard -10; J Villeneuve -10; D Hill -10; J Alesi -10. Not starting after qualifying (10 points deducted): J Herbert -10 points. Speeding in the pit lane (5 points deducted): none. CONSTRUCTORS: Finishing points (scored for the first car only in the top 20 positions at the end of every grand prix): Ferrari 30 points; Jordan 25; Williams 24; Benetion 23; Stewart 22; Arrows 21. Penalty points Incident resulting in a car being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted): Ferrari -10 points; Stewart -10. Elimination of a car during the race (10 points deducted): McLaren -20 points; Prost -20; Sauber -20; Minardi -20; BAR -20; Jordan -10; Williams -10; Benetion -10. Not starting after qualifying (10 points deducted): Stewart-10 points. Speeding in the pit tane (5 points deducted): none.

BONUS POINTS apply to six grands prix during the 1999 Formula One championship, the first of which is the Brazilian GP. Correctly predicting winning driver: 100 points; second place: 200 points; third place: 300 points

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scored 818 points in Melbourne and comprised M Schumacher, trvine,

Fisichella, R Schumacher, Frentzen and Takagi for the drivers and Ferrari,

You can make a total of 12 transfers. Each transfer allows you to change one selection. You can make up to four transfers with each call. For the Brazilian GP call 0640 678 801 (+44 870 901 424 ex UK) before noon on Thursday April 7 with your 10-digit PIN to hand. Your new team must have three selections from each of groups A, B, C and D.

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FOOTBALL

Gregory attracts Stone to Villa Park for £5.5m

By Chris Moore and Stephen Wood

Villa manager, took the turnover of his wheeling and dealing this season through the £50 million barrier last night when he bought Steve Stone from Nottingham Forest for £5.5 million.

The former England winger. 27, agreed a 414-year contract with the option of a further year and he is likely to make his debut in Villa's FA Carling Premiership game away to Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday.

Stone is the fifth big signing made by Gregory this season, after Paul Merson, who cost £6.75 million when he moved to the Midlands from Middleshrough, Dion Dublin, a E5.75 million buy from Coventry City. Alan Thompson. a E4.5 million purchase from Bolton Wanderers, and Steve Watson, who cost £4 million from Newcastle United. The departure of Dwight Yorke to Manchester United for £12.6 million leaves Gregory only £7 million in deficit on his

transfer dealings. He had tried to sign Stone lasi week, after agreeing an exchange deal with Ron Atkinson, the Forest manager, that would have seen Stan Collymore return to the City Ground, but the troubled former Forest and Liverpool striker rejected the move. "I thought then we might

JOHN GREGORY, the Aston have had to wait until the end of the season to have any chance of signing Stone. Gregory said, "but things have come together very quickly in the last 24 hours.

"I've actually been tracking Steve since much earlier in the season. He's an excellent allround footballer who will give us some width on the right. but he can also play anywhere across the midfield."

After setting the pace at the top of the Premiership for the first half of the season. Villa have struggled since January. collecting only one point from are bottom of the Premiership. Stone, who won nine Eng-land caps before suffering a career-threatening knee injury. said: "It's a massive move for



FOOTBALL IN BRIEF

■ Derby County expect to sign Vassillis Borbokis from Sheffield United today. Derby's proposed move for the Greek wing back, with Jonathan Hunt, Robbie Kozluk and about £500,000 going to Bramall Lane, has dragged on since Tuesday. But talks were continuing yesterday and the East Midlands club are hopeful that the 30-year-old will soon be a Derby player. He must sign by noon today to be eligible for the FA Carling Premiership match

with Liverpool at Pride Park.

Harry Redknapp, the West Ham United manager. has closed the book on his dressing-room clash with John Moncur and is conceotrating on the match away to Chelsea tomorrow. Moncur was fined after the row and Redknapp said: This is an internal matter and as far as I am concerned

it is in the past." Huddersfield have signed the Brentford goalkeeper. Kevin Dearden, on a free transfer as cover for Nico Vaesen. Dearden. 29, will be on the bench for the game away to Ipswich Town.

me and the chance to rekindle my career with one of the top clubs in the country. It's a wrench to leave Forest after so long, but I've always given them my all."

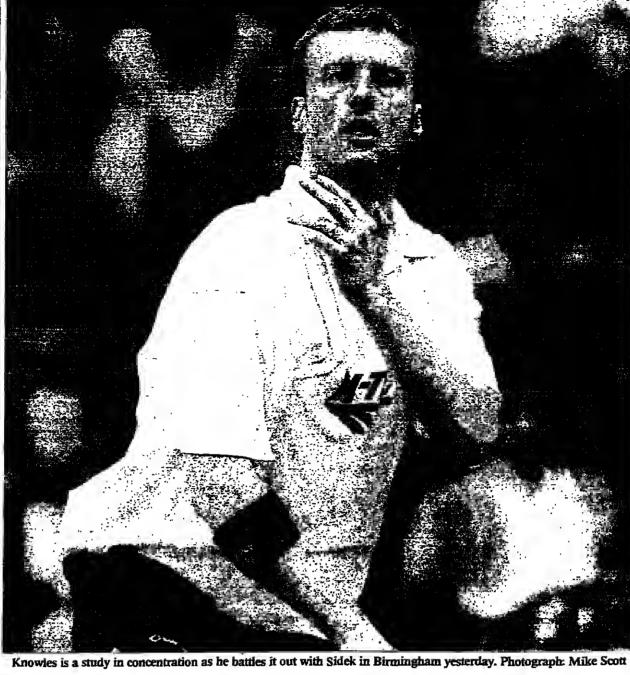
Gregory did not rule out making another signing before the transfer deadline, but insisted it would be "no one from Coventry". This was 6 reference to accusations made by Coventry City yesterday that Villa had made an illegal approach for George Boateng, their Dutch midfield player. Coventry have reported Villa to the Football Association and the FA Premier League.

Robbie Fowler, the Liverpool striker, sent a letter to Graeme Le Saux. the Chelsea player, yesterday in an attempt to draw a line under their public dispute. The pair were involved in a feud during the Premiership match at Stamford Bridge last month. Le Saux was seen to elbow Fowler in the back of the head, but it is believed that he was provoked by taunts from Fowler questioning his sexuality. Fowler received an apology

from Le Saux last week and issued a statement in response. That did not appear to amount to a full apology, but, after advice from Gérard Houllier, the Liverpool manager, and the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), Fowler has written to Le Saux.

Part of the letter reads: "I am sorry if you misinterpreted my accions, which were not meant to cause any offence to yourself or anyone else." After legal advice. Fowler has, nevertheless, been careful not to admit any wrongdoing.

The Football Association is to hold an inquiry into the incident and Fowler's apology makes it possible for the controversy to be dealt with before the England squad convenes for the European championship qualifier against Poland later this month. Both Fowler and Le Saux are expected to be included in the squad, which is due to be announced by Kevin Keegan, the temporary manager, next Thursday.



Knowles profits from Sidek injury

PETER KNOWLES, who came close to giving up badminton after a two-month suspension earlier in the season, scored one of the best wins of his career in ensuring that two Englishmen reached the third round of the Yonex All-England championships for the first time in eight years yesterday. Later, however,

both were beaten in the fourth round by seeded players. Knowles went through when Rashid Sidek, the joint fifth seed and a former runner-up, retired with a calfmuscle tear at one game all, enabling the former England national champion to join Colin Haughton in the last 16 at the National Indoor Arena

KEENE on CHESS

By Richard Eaton

in Birmingham. These two were caught playing cricket with hotel cleaning equipment at the Dutch Open last October and Knowles was punished for later abusing officials.

Haughton received only a one-month ban without losing funding but Knowles, wbo, coincidentally, had just beaten Sidek, lost about £2.000 of income. It made him wonder if it was all worthwhile.

"I only came back because I love the game and now I'm glad I did," Knowles, who took a part-time salesman's job during December and January, said. His form suffered

when he returned to competition, but he was resolute and confident yesterday, knowing that his best All-England result was a possibility. He needed a chunk of luck,

though. Sidek came with a well-timed pusb from 11-9 down in the first game to win it 15-12 and advanced to a four-point lead in the second.
"It was at 13-8 that I felt something go." the Malaysian said.
Knowles hurried the pace

and took the second game 15-13. Then, during the five-minute interval before the deciding game, Sidek, 30, could hardly walk and was forced to default.

Haughton was always in charge against Martin Delfs. 19, the son of Flemming Delfs. the former world and All-England champion, winning 15-4. 15-6. Haughton eventually went out 15-12, 15-2. to Fung Permadir the second-seeded Indonesian, while Knowles, who seemed to be bothered by

a groin problem, lost 15-3, 15-10, to Tawfik Hidayat. There was further disappointment for the British contingent when Kelly Morgan, the Commonwealth champion from Wales, went out in the second round, beaten by Ellen Angelina, a promising youngster from the Indonesian assembly line, in straight

SPORT IN BRIEF London in favour for world

event

TRIATHLON: The prespect of the world championships heing staged in London in September gathered momentum yesterda; when the British Triathlon Association (BTA) said that it had agreed to progress a bid (David Powell writes). The International Triathlon Union (ITU) is looking for an emergency replacement venue for Munich after the world governing body fell our with the German federation last month. Mike Gilmore. the ITU managing director. said that, despite interest shown from Cancun (Mexico) and Montreal, he had a "clear preference" for London. "Having considered the risks, we decided it was a great opportunity and that we wanted to bid." Elaine Shaw, the BTA chief executive, said. CYCLING: Michael Boogerd, the Dutch national

champion, claimed the overall lead in the Paris-Nice stage race yesterday after an audacious attack took him and Santiago Botero, of Colombia, clear of the main field in the steep hills of the Puy de Dome region. Botero outsprinted Boogerd to snatch the stage victory, but the Dutch rider's unexpected move caught his main title rivals unawares.

ROWING: More than 600 crews will be involved on the Tideway today and tomorrow with the staging of the schools' and women's head of the river races. St Edward's. stroked by Chris Smith, a 1998 junior international, and winners for the past two years, lead off 358 school crews in the Schools Head from the Bandstand to Putney today. The three leading starting crews in the Mortlake to Putney Women's Head tomorrow, Marlow. Thames and Kingston, are packed with senior internationals, although Kingston may be depleted

because of injuries. ATHLETICS: Paul Tergat, of Kenya, a four-time world cross-country champion, will run in the the Compaq Road Races at Balmoral on Saturday, April 24. Tergat will take part in the five-mile

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

THE TIMES FRIDA

CHEUTENHAM work begins with Mother's Day, but could

end with Mark Phinan engaapplied from a matriarchal spell that extends beyond his

own upbringing and into the

projession he is now trying he market on his own activities.

Three of the young trainer

30 horses have been prepared

for the Weatherby's Champion

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SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT Begin Bridge with The Times: Lesson 47 - More on responder's second bid

Last week I promised to cover the situation where responder has sufficient values to make a second bid, maybe even to insist on game, but even after the first three bids of the auction the best trump suit is unclear. Look at the following

hands after the auction 19-14-29: (A) A KQJ105 (B) ★ AK7643 (C) ★ AQ9653 54 · AK65 ↓ K762 # J6 **4** 65 4 3 On Hand (A) I suppose you could jump straight to Four

Hearts, since we worked out last week that partner must have a six-card suit: but it seems a little premature with only a small doubleton in his suit. Either Four Spades or Three No-Trumps could be a better contract. There is no need for you to decide now. Bid Three Diamonds. A new suit bid by responder is always forcing (to game if that suit is bid at the three level). This gives partner the chance to bid his hearts yet again with a very strong suit. give delayed support for your spades which he would do with, say, Ax. Alternatively he could bid Three No-Trumps if he had clubs well stopped.

Last week I gave an example of a weaker hand than Hond

(B) that had a six-card spade suit and a singleton heart. I said that the weaker hand should pass Two Hearts. This Hand (B) should bid Two Spades. This bid says, 'I know you have a six-card heart suit bin I do not have a fit for you. However, I do have a six-card spade suit and a promising hand if you have a sacondary 5t for mo.' But her well weaker has been six-card by the same a sacondary 5t for mo.' But her well weaker hand that have a sacondary 5t for mo.' But her well weaker hand the same as a sacondary 5t for mo.' But her well weaker hand that have a sacondary 5t for mo.' But her well weaker hand that had a six-card spade suit and a promising hand if you have a secondary fit for me. Partner will usually pass bin can bid on if his hand is suitable for playing in spades. Note that it would be wrong to bid Three Diamonds because the hand is not strong enough to force to game.

Hand (C) has enormous potential, bin not in hearts. Again

you bid Three Diamonds but this time you are not interested in playing in hearts or no-trumps. You are hoping to hear spade support from partner. If he rebids Three Hearts or Three No-Trumps you will bid your diamonds a second time.

All the hands I have looked at so far have been after the sequence tm-14-2m but the principles are similar whatever the auction. After a sequence such as 19-14-24, responder's choices are to pass, invite game with Three Spades or go all the way to game himself. After, say, 17-14-24, with a minimum hand responder can pass with, say, 6-8 HCP and much better clubs than hearts or give preference to Two Hearts with the same sort of values; with invitational values responder usually chooses between Two No-Trumps, Three Clubs and Three Hearts; and with 13 HCP or more, responder bids game in what he thinks will be the best trump suit (or no-

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HEADAGE a. A person's intellectual age b. Number of animals c. A medicinal herb

MOUTAN a. The Himalayan sheep b. A tribal chieftain

c A pink shrub

LAULAU a. A grass miniskirt b. Meat and fish c. A triumphal dance

INTERFERON a. A protein b. A computer virus c. A tactic at American football

Linares final Today I give the full final cross-table of results from the vitally significant tournament at Linares. Kasparov has won by a

dominating and extraordinary margin of 25 points over his closest rivals. The question of who should challenge Kasparov for the world title is still open, since his two main rivals. Viswanathan Anand and Vladimir Kramnik. shared second prize. White: Viswanathan Anand

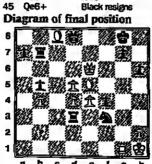
BY RAYMOND KEENE

CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Black: Michael Adams

English Opening						
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-10	Qd2	14				

axb4 Kh1 Diagram of final position



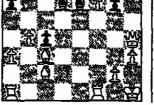
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WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Caurin-Ko-vacevic, Valencia 1998. In this position. White translated his kingside pressure into a beautiful attacking finish. Can you spot the conclusion?



Solution on page 50



should be guaranteed today when contracts are signed for Just Players Ltd, a consortium headed by Owen Money, a leading Welsh media personality, to take the club out of administration. Followers of the Dr Martens League club will be hoping that the move puts an end to months of strife that have verged on farce as the job

The final twist came on Monday when the deal was delayed after Eugene Caparros, who had owned the now-defunct Ebbw Vale in the League of Wales, insisted that Just Players should not be able to take over because he had put in a higher offer. A meeting of the creditors decided to support the Just Players bid. One of the first tasks of Owen Edwards - the son of Gareth Edwards, the former Wales and British Lions scrum half, who will be installed as chief executive - is

to decide upon a new manager. The consortium's original choice, Colin Addison, who took Merthyr to second place in the Dr Martens premier division after an exciting duel season, is now in charge of Scarborough, the Nationwide League club. Carl Dale, the former Cardiff City striker, had been mentioned as a candidate, but on Wednesday he

Merthyr bank on

of manager twice rested in the hands of John Lewis and twice in those of Eddie May as competing groups vied for the

with Forest Green Rovers last signed as a player for Newport AFC, having been released by

Yeovil Town. It is expected that the new man will be installed for the FAW Premier Cup quarterfinal against Barry Town on Tuesday — a fixture by which Merthyr set great store as losing semi-finalists are guaranteed £20,000. Gareth Abraham, the caretaker playermanager and groundsman, and Mark Williams are likely to take the side to Dorchester

CRICKET

Lara must attempt to sway unfriendly jury

THERE will be no hiding place for Brian Lara in the second Test against Australia starting here tomorrow. By the end of it, the selectors, who have put him on a two-match probation, will have to make up their minds whether he is the man to lead them out of the gravest crisis in West Indies cricket history. It was one thing for Lara to

captain the side at the Queen's Park Oval, where his fellow Trinidadians had no difficulty excusing him for the collapse to 51 all out and defeat by 312 runs in the first Test. It will be quite another matter in Jamaica, where there is more hostility towards him than anywhere else in the Caribbean.

The last time West Indies played a Test match here, 14 months ago, it was abandoned after 66 minutes because the pitch was too dangerous. England were 17 for three and play had been stopped six times for injured batsmen to receive treatment. There is no chance of a repe-

tition of that debacle. Charlie Joseph. the Sabina Park

groundsman, reckons that the relaid pitch provides the most even surface that he can remember here. Significantly, Joseph, who has been working on the ground for almost 40 years, was on leave in New York when the square was first

relaid in an attempt to pro-

FROM PAT GIBSON IN KINGSTON, JAMAICA

duce more life, with such catastrophic consequences. "When I came back, I had never seen anything like it in my life." be said. "It was awful, man. I couldn't believe they could prepare a pitch like it.. That night on the radio it was my name they keep saying ... they saying man work here all those years and can't prepare a pitch."

Jamaica have played three Busta Cup matches on the new surface and there have been numerous trial games. Joseph said: "It play good man, even bounce for the fast bowlers, turn for the spinners. It will last five days, even six, if the batsmen are any good."

Which brings us back to Lara. With Chanderpaul again ruled out with a recur-



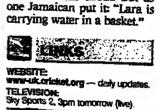
Lara: captaincy on trial

and Hooper still unavailable, he is the only proven Test batsman in the West Indies side

and he admits that it is up to him to provide the runs. Lara, who has not added to his ten Test hundreds since the game against Sri Lanka in St Vincent in June 1997, said: "I think it's important for myself and for West Indies cricket that I try to solve my batting problems and see how best I can go out to get similar scores like I used to four years ago."

He is going to be under enormous pressure for feelings are running high locally. Jamaicans have not forgotten how he agitated for the captaincy when their own Courtney Walsh had the job and they know that another Jamaican. Jimmy Adams, is one of the selectors' few alternatives.

Walsh was yesterday given the keys to the city of Kingston in recognition of his achieve-ment in taking 400 Test wick-ets. Nehemiah Perry, the Jamaica off spinner, who has taken more wickets than anyone on the new-look square, is in line for his debut. But as



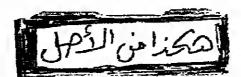
New Zealand pay for loose shots

SOUTH AFRICA were in command of the second Test match at stumps on the first day in Christchurch. They reduced New Zealand to 168 all out and then scored 54 without loss, Gary Kirsten and Herschelle Gibbs easily holding out New Zealand's new-ball attack. Kirsten, who hit a century in the drawn first Test, was timing the ball well, driving and cutting six boundaries in 90 minutes.

Dion Nash, the New Zealand captain, surprisingly batted first on a wicket expected to assist the early bowlers. But it was loose shots that undid most of the New Zealand batsmen. Two wickets fell in the first half-hour and, apart from a brief period of wayward bowling before lunch, New Zealand never recovered. Matthew Horne looked in touch, but went to Jacques Kallis's second ball for 36, flashing outside the off stump to be caught at second slip.

Three wickets in as many overs by Allan Donald and Shaun Pollock shortly after lunch left the home side at 115 for six. Nathan Astle left the nome side at 115 for six. Nathan Astle looked in control on a wicket playing flat and true, but Donald had him caught on the thirdman boundary, slashing at a wide delivery. Donald left the field, having aggravated a stomach muscle injury, while Simon Doull, the New Zealand strike bowler, twisted an ankle. Aravinda de Silva, returning to carteir his

Aravinda de Silva, returning to captain his country after injury, and Chaminda Vaas, the pace bowler, reinforced Sri Lanka ahead of the start today of the Asian Test Championship final against Pakistan in Dhaka. Tempera-tures have reached 37C, with high humidity.



Chris McGrath meets a young trainer with success in the genes

Pitman begins to make his mark

CHELTENHAM week begins with Mother's Day, but could end with Mark Pitman emancipated from a matriarchal spell that extends beyond his own upbringing and into the profession he is now trying to

master on his own account. Three of the young trainer's 30 horses have been prepared for the Weatherbys Champion Bumper, a prize only Dato Star has ever denied the Irish. Whether as mother or tutor, his gratitude for Jenny Pitman's counsel will always endure, but success on Wednes-

day would amount to a declaration of his independence. After all, heredity will have given him nothing if not self-

With 22 winners, the former iockey has enjoyed a fine second season since flying the nest. Bot Pitman, 32, is reconciled to the disappointments of his new craft and the only unbeaten member of his Festival trio, John David, has met with a setback and is a doubtful

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CYCLING Victoria

John David's striking debut at Chepstow in November prompted various fruitless offers to his owner — inflated as high as £200,000 by the achievements of his half-brother, Teeton Mill. Pitman, of course, needs no instruction in the importance of family trees. You can be taught a skill." he said. "But if it's not a natural thing you can only ever achieve a certain level. To be the best, whether you are a footballer, or skier, or whatever, you need that extra flair, that gut reaction, something

that sets you apart." If an instinct for horses comes with the Pitman chro-

mosomes, he also acquired a practical insight into training both riding for his mother they shared a Gold Cup with Garrison Savannah - and then as her assistant for four years. "We don't do things very differently," he said. "We use the same gallops, the same

"I spend a lot of time getting to know the horses' habits. To me, the mental side of training is every bit as important as the physical. You train the mind as well as the body."
When Pitman quit the sad-

dle, people assumed that he

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was being groomed for the succession at his mother's Lam-bourn yard. She has never been the retiring type, however, and he set up his own operation down the road. He rents Saxon House stables from Fulke Walwyn's widow, Cath. These same boxes once accommodated Mill House, The Dikler, Charlie Potheen and Mandarin.

Both trainers' legacies are entwined in Pitman's love of the "old-fashioned" chaser to which raw, substantial model all three bumper horses conform. That is why he is so

heartened by what they have already achieved, win, lose or draw at the Festival. "It's all a bonus," he said. "We didn't buy them to be good bumper horses but as Gold Cup horses. They we got the size and scope for a champion over fences to be among them."

Canasta won at Huntingdon before finishing second at Ascot last month, while Monsignor, likewise, made a suc-cessful debut, at Sandown, before being placed at Warwick and Newbury. "He cruised to the front at Warwick." Pirman said. "But the ground was desperate and he just didn't get home. He's working well and would have a live each-way chance if the ground isn't too soft. They crawled when Canasta was beaten and I

hope he'll run a hig race, too."

The Gold Cup provided the outstanding moment of Pitman's riding career and, in common with most professionals, he treasures the Cheltenham championships above even Aintree. Nor is there any mistaking his confidence. "I feel I can be one of the best. My strike-rate first time out is one in three. I don't think anyone else is higher. I'm proud of that. I don't have any other interests. I don't play golf, don't go to the pub. I devote my life to the horses. My wife would say I'm obsessed, and I probably don't see as much of my family as I should.

"Unfortunately I'm very ambitious and it's important to make an impression." Evidently it is better to make your own than to be merely someone else's Mark.

Diary, page 25



Pitman hopes to saddle his first Cheltenham Festival winner next Wednesday

Teeton Mill team left in dark by Williamson

By CHRIS McGrath

THE tug of war over Norman Williamson's ride in the Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup is threatening to absorb more ink and intrigue than the likely outcome of the race itself. Yesterday, the owners of Tecton Mill responded to suggestions that Williamson would honour a commitment to the Irish novice. Nick Dundee, by reiterating their would stay with the top-rated British chaser. But the conspicuous absence of any such assurance from the jockey himself prompted an admis-sion of their growing irrita-

Williamson still protests that be may yet be spared a decision by Nick Dundee going for the Royal & SunAlli-ance Chase on Wednesday instead. Yet while that horse's connections refuse to commit themselves in public, antepost betting on both races offers corroboration to an Irish grapevine that is adamant: given cut underfoot. Nick Dundee's owner, John Magnier, will favour a tilt at the Gold Cup.

Of course, even if a final decision were still to be made, Williamson could assure The Winning Line, Teeton Mill's owners, that he will partner the grey regardless of Nick Dundee's Festival target. His failure to do so is understood to reflect some formal engagement with Magnier.

Venetia Williams, trainer of Teeton Mill, could shed oo light on the matter after a loog

conversation with the jocker at Towcester vesterday. can't tell anybody anything. she said, "as I don't know more than anyone else at present."

Stephen Winstanley, spoke sman for The Winning Line. insisted that Williamson would ride Teeton Mill, but conceded alternative arrangemeots have been made. These are thought to involve Tony McCoy, whose Gold Cup mount Unsinkable Boxer, is

the SunAlliance once Nick Dundee is formally scratched. "Venetia has assured us that Norman will ride," Winstanley said. "We'll be disappointed if he doesn't and. frankly, amazed. I'm not happy with the situation as it stands. We've made contin gency plans and won't be left without a top jockey. I understand Norman's point of view but we can't wait forever, as we've a syndicate of owners who want to know where they

himself expected to switch to

Williamson said: "There is no point me saying what I ride until a decision on Nick Dundee has been made, If he runs in the SunAlliance there's no decision for me to make, so what's the hype about?" But he did not sound remotely comfortable.

☐ Coral has opened a book on the Dubai World Cup. making Silver Charm 7-4 favourite to repeat last year's success on March 28. The firm then bets: 5-2 High-Rise, 3-1 Victory Gallop, 6-I Daylami.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Wincanton

Golfagr good in soft, good in pieces 2.20 (2m hole) 1, Taquilla (M.A. Fizgereid, 4-6 tar); 2, My Man Dan (40-1); 3, Guido (16-1), 16 an. 2-9. 3. N. Henderson, Tote 2: 180; 21-10, 25 60, 53.20 OF 534.40. CSF: 245,76: 25 60, 53:20 DF 534-40. CSF: 245,76; 2.50 (27) Sf 61), Lamedo (1, 17a;2act, 5-4 4x4, 2, Oscar Wards (13-2); 3, Reitemder (9-1), S ran, MR Montroe, 3, 111, P Nichola, cide: £1.40; £1.10, £1.60, DF: £2.20, CSF: C4.09 Montroe (2/1) wes withdrawn not un-der statter's orders, Rule 4 applies to all bets, deduction 30prin 8re pound. 3.20 (2m 5f ch) 1, Natysserf (N Williamson, 13-2; Timetoesper's top rating); 2, Amble-side (11-14 kg); 3, Linton Rocka (6-1), 8 ran, 5, 4, F Rich, Tote: £7.10, £2.10, £1.60, £1.30 DF: £10.40, CSF, £22.37, Tricust £101.38

2101.39 3.50 (2m indis) 1; Kimonia Crossa (Mr Fi Fornsas), 11-2); 2, Hon in Saucy (8-5 bre); 3, Mart-Lou-And (7-1), 8 san, 1-4, 1-4, A. J. Wel-acon, Tota: 58-40; 52.10, 51.30, 51.10, DF: 55-50 CSF: £11.07, Tricest: £39.30 ES 00 CSF: £11.07. Tricest: £39 30
4.20 (3m 1f 10)vd cht 1, Sidphriftiese (Mr M G Maler, 10-11 (an); 2. Comeon Gayler (8-4), 3, Some-Toy (9-2); 4 rsn. 18, 3m; 1 R Miller, Toks: £1.70. DF: £2.00. CSF: £3.11.
4.50 (2m 6t holle) 1, Night Thyme Out R Forissel, 13-2); 2. Bixe Blazer (4-1 p-lex); 3, Walters Deskiny (10-1). Ethissel (40t) 4-1 p-lex); 12 rsn. MF: Sea Turth. V, 4, M. Roberts Toks: £7.80, £2 10, £1 10, £2 00. DF: £10.00. Toke Tiffects: £162.90 CSF: £29.67 Tricest: £28.98
8.20 (2m holle) 1, Blassman (M. A. Fizzgerold, 11-4), 2, Father Kristmea (7-4 lay); 3, Brandon Court (6-1). 16 rsn. 7, 13, B. Smed. Toke. £5.20; £2 Po, £1 10, £4.20 DF: £4.90. CSF: £7.00. £2 DF: £4.90. CSF: £7.00. E2 DF: £4.90. E3 DF:

Jackpot: £2,454.60. Placepot: £8.20. Quadpot: £5.50.

Carlisle Goling: soft, heavy in places
2.00 (2m 110yd helis) 1, Str Bob (C McCormeck, evens levi); 2, Who Deror Wins (5-1);
3, Pessimistic Dick (50-1), 6 ran NA, dist. W
McKoown. Tote: 52.00; £1.10, £1.40, £3.00.
DF: £3.30. CSF; £8.61.
2.30 (2m ch) 1, Jame's River (Mr A Dompsey, 2-1 tod); 2, Pessin (4-1); 3, Jack Yesis
(12-1), 7 ran, 71, 13, Mrs M Revetey, Tote:
2.80; £1 60, £2.00. DF: £3 80, CSF; 58.10.
3.00 (2m 4, 110yd helis); 1, Sall On Std (F

22.60; \$1 80, \$2.00. OF; \$2 80, CSF; \$3, 10, 3.00 (2m 4) 110yd hdio) 1, Smil On Sid (F McGrain, 2-1); 2, Corporation Pop (8-11 fay); 3, Durata's Glein (20-1); 10 ran; 174, 184 J O'Nyll Toke; \$2.70; 5; 80, £1 00, £3 90 OF; \$1.50 CSF; \$2.51 a. 20 (2m 4) 110yd ch) 1, Smil Mind Bind (P-Niven, 4-8 fav); 2, Arden's Scool (9-0), 3, Hurst Ryler (7-1); 5 ran, 1-1, 7) Mrs M Reveley, Toke; \$1.50; \$1.00, \$2.80. OF; \$2.00. CSF; \$2.50. USF: 52.59. 4.00 (2m il hole) 1, Allerbeek (L. Cooper, 8-1), 2, Fas And Fancy (7-2 tex), 3, Irela Wild-card (4-1) 7 ran 11, 101. J Goulding: Tota: £1000; £3.40, £1.80 OF £27.20. CSF. 531.60

\$31.60
4.30 (3m 2! ch) 1, The Next Weltz (R Supple, 7-4 fav, Thunderer's map); 2, Masser Wood (4-1), 3, Sillens Steller (7-2), 6 ran, 14, 10f. L. Lungo, Tote: \$2.10; £1.50; £2.10, DF: \$5.20 CSF: £8.02.
5.00 (2m 11 ftg) 1, Denentus (Flichard Guest, 4-1), 2, Hamish Mor (100-30), 3, Flathifs Led (3-1 fav) B ran, 14, 71 W Heigh Tote. £8.00, £2.20, £1.60, £1.30. DF. £34.20, CSF £18.21.

Placespot: £8.30. Quedpot: £3.30.

Towcester

Goings soft, heavy peichee 2.10 (3m hote) 1, Welliewood (M Mello. 10-1); 2. Tylo Sissemer (7-2); 3. Com Ex-change (25-1), 8 ran. NR: Smokey Robot. 2, 131 J. Jefferson Tote: 59-50, 53-30. 52 10. DF: 123.70 CSF: 233-59. 21. 131 J. Judierson Tote: £9.50, £3.30. £2.10. DF: £23.70 CSF: £35.59. £3.30. £2.40 (2m 6f ch) 1. Ever Bleesed (R Durwoody, 1-6 feet), 2. Coulin Loch (16-1); 3. Bredinthepurple £90-11. 5 ran. £51. £19 Ms. J. Pitmen Tote. £1.20; £2.00. £2.10 DF. £7.80. CSF: £4.02. 3.10 (2m 5f holie) 1. Bore Bora (C Lievellyn, 11-8 feet); 2. Borse Block (12-1). 3. Rising Tallstain (15-2) 6 ran. 5, 8 N Niveton-Davies Toter £1.90; £1.10, £1.70, £2.70. £7.50. £7.10, £1.90. £1.10, £1.70, £2.70. £7.50. £1.10, £1.90. £1.10, £1.70, £2.70. £1.10, £1.90. £1.10, £1.70, £2.70. £1.10, £1.90. £1.10, £1.70, £2.70. £1.10, £1.90. £1.10, £1.70, £2.70. £1.10, £1.90. £1.10, £1.70, £2.70. £1.10, £1.90. £1.20. CSF. £6.70. 4.10 (2m 11 ch) 1. Scottby (B Pouch, 13-6), £1.20. £1.20. £1.10, £1.20. £2.20. £1.20. £1.10, £2.30, £2.70. £1.20. £3.20. £3.10. £2.20. £1.20. £1.10, £2.30, £2.70. £1.20. £3.10. £1.10. £1.20. £1.10. £1.20. £1.20. £2.20. £1.10, £2.30, £2.70. £1.20. £3.10. £1.10. £1.20. £1.20. £2.20. £1.10, £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £2.20. £1.10, £1.20. CSP: 18.69 (CML) 1, Golden Rose (C MUTA), 10-1); 2, Chopins Revolution (9-2); 3, Good Job (13-2), 10 ran. 11, 34l. T McGovern Tole: 216-80; 22-30, £1.40, £2-60. OF: 210.10. CSF: £51.18. Placepot: £16.20. Quadpot: £7.80.

3.45 Another Might 3.10 COURT MELODY (nap) 4.50 Chevalier Errant Timekeeper's top rating: 4.50 ESTATE AGENT. Carl Evans: 4.15 Extra Stout. GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS 2.00 WORCESTER PARK NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE

(£4,299; 3m 110yo) (10 numers) 1998: MOUNTAIN PATH 8-12-0 M A Fitzgerald (3-1) N Henderson 7 ran

CONDITRY STORE revitalised by a switch to Mortin Pine this season, boids strong claims

2.35 RACAL NOVICES HURDLE (£4,416: 2m 6f) (11 runners)

SETTING: 13-8 Russell Road, 7-2 Kopp Vans, 4-1 Native Ring, 9-2 Chicago Chy, 10-1 High Same, 20-1 Lone Shr., 33-1 Cold Class, Light Reflections, My Stendalough, 50-1 others, 1988: 6000 LORIO MURPHY 6-11-12 R Ourseoody (11-4) P Hobbs 9 ion

Hebre 18 p. 21 and of 13 in Bacchernel in acvice hardle at Sandonn (Zm. 11094, good to saft) with High Garner (1th before oil) 287 5th. Pleased good to saft) with High Garner (1th before oil) 287 5th. Pleased good to saft) in the saft of 12 to Door to Door in review herder at Sandonn Cm 84, good to saft) to the Booste Matte to Door to Door in review herder at Sandonn Cm 84, good to 13 to Door 15 Door to Door in review herder at Sandonn Cm 84, good to saft; prevader to 15 2nd of 8 to Mingarran's in cooked hardle at Following (2m 91 1894, good to saft); prevader pleased to 14 to Doors (12 to Doors to Early Label in review to Brede at Knobbar (2m, good to saft); prevader (2m 91 14 to Doors) (2m 91 14 NATIVE KING promises to be well suited by this longer trip and is preferred to Russell Road

3.10 HORSE & HOUND GRAND MILITARY GOLD CUP (AMATEUR CHASE) (£5,084: 3m 110yd) (14 nmers)



Trible: Selver's TAAL 11-11-12 M Maction (12-1) of M Maction (12-1) of Maction (12-1 Course-and-distance without SYMBOL OF SUCCESS could not be to better heart

COURSE SPECIALISTS 34.5 30.8 20.0 19.1 18.7 15.9 14.9 O Blacod
R Dunetody
J Osborne
A Magnira
C Harestyo
M Fluggerald
R Johnson

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

3.45 TOTE HANDICAP HUROLE [SHOWCASE RACE AND TOTE TREFECTA RACE] (£5,485: 2m 6f) (10 runners)

410 5-0011 COLITY'S DARLESG 16 (B.D.S) (Max J Jeyes) C Welston 0-10-6 __A Magnife 410 5-0011 COLITY'S DARLESG 16 (B.D.S) (Max V O'Brien) D 0 Bigs: 7-10-4 M Batterior (5)

BETTING: 7-2 Mister Generosky. 5-3 Workbostalothus, 6-1 Wintectape), Equity's Darling, 8-1 Far Down, Imad. Land York, 12-1 others.

WONTCOSTALOTBUT is admirably consistent and looks ozpable of playing a hasting role

4.15 DUKE OF GLOUCESTER MEMORIAL HUNTERS CHASE (PAST & PRESENT) (£2,042: 3m 110yd) (5 runners)

RETTING: 15-8 Edita Strue. 2-1 Show Stick. 9-4 Bracs Of Mar. 14-1 Mischael Stat. 16-1 Statute Fort.

Brass Df Nur 3N 46 of 8 to Cats Rom in handleap chase at Exadord Can 40, good to Brint), prevently if 2nd of 6 to Recheen Single in hunter chase at Exadord Can 40, good to Brint), prevently if 2nd of 6 to Recheen Single in hunter chase at 8 waters by (2m 14 good to soft). Storing Four 23 8 to 48 to Lightner or horizon chase at Reche (2m 14, good to soft). Storing Four 23 8 to 48 to Lightner or horizon chase at Reche (2m 15, good to Irm). Mischold Star 194 4th of 5 to 1x1 fibe Ead at novice handleap handle at Forbied (2m 51 fibyd. Irm), previously backet a discarce 4th of 12 to Wildlams in horizons chase at Newton About (3m 21 10)yd. good to Irm). 1998: BRAES OF MAR 6-12-4 Major D Ethicot (6-4 biv) N Henderson 6 mm

STAVER STICK, where of the Grand Military Gold Cup has very use prove exist to the task

4.50 BUSHY PARK NH NOVICES HURDLE (£2,905: 2m 110yd) (14 tunners)

SETTING: 11-4 Easte Agent, 9-2 Atta. 5-1 Moorchine Bay, 11-2 Pacabee, 7-1 Chevater Errant, 6-1 Chief Wardance, Diagno Lord 20-1 others. 1998. ANDASATO 7-11-7 H Dunwoody (8-11 law) Lady Homes 14 rac

1996. ANDASTO 7-11-7 if Demondry (6-11 bis) Laty Hernes 14 nan

Chief Wardshires best Eig Allo 2 in 22-notes novice burdle at Newscalle

(2m good to soft), previously 24 2ad of 9 in Sametican to nowice burdle at

(2m good to soft), previously 24 2ad of 9 in Sametican to nowice burdle at

madest burdle at Waterstone (2m good to soft), previously, 15 5 th 20 10 to Kindston on novice burdle at Waterstone (2m 11 thly), good to soft). Also beater is destance 50 of 0 in Establect in sovice headle at Teacher (2m 31 10) of 18 10 the 18 10 to 18

ESTATE AGENT ses net entring out of turn lates and should again have a major say here

Blinkered first time Hereford: 3.00 Asinbox, Trakelor, 5.10 Another Changer.

Dato Star and Lord Gyllene back on the sidelines



ISTABRAQ will face a maximum of 16 Star, blighted by injury throughout his rivals in the Smurfit Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham on Tuesday, Last year's record-equalling 12-length winner was among 17 horses declared for the race

yesterday.
His stable-companion Theatreworld, runner-up for the past two years, and not be running."
Bellator are the only other acceptors to Another horse have run in the race 12 months ago. Dato Lord Gyllene, the 1997 Grand National

career, was among the horses withdrawn yesterday after disappointing Malcolm Jefferson, his trainer, in his recent homework. "He just isn't right," Jefferson said. "We went to school him this morning and he is not schooling as he should, so he will

Another horse back on the sidelines is

next month's renewal. The 11-year-old has suffered a suspected stress fracture of the pelvis and will miss the rest of the season. His injury came to light in tests carried out to investigate a muscle strain.

Lord Gyllene did not attempt a repeat National win last year because of leg trouble. He has been soundly beaten in his two races this campaign.

ATR 2.10 Bodega Bay, 2.45 Clady Boy, 3,20 Vitprano,

3.55 Weaver George. 4.25 Strathmore Lodge. 5.00 Western Genera Carl Evans: 4.25 Spartan Breeze.

2.10 LOCH DOON NH MAIDEN HURDLE

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT .

(£2,145: 2m) (11 lunners)

2.45 ROYAL HIGHLAND FUSILIERS NOVICES CHASE (£2,898: 2m 4f) (11 runners)

1 D-F5 CASTLE CLEAR 174 (BF.S) Mrs. M. Reveley 6-11-2 1 0-F5 CASTLE CLEAR 174 (8F.5) Mr. M Revelvy 6-11-2

P044 CLADY ROY 34 (85.5 fbr. (rb) 0-11-2 0 A Mctaughth (7) = 2 044 CLADY ROY 34 (85.5 fbr. (rb) 0-11-2 0 A Mctaughth (7) = 4 -047 P SLE OF ROYAM 23 P Monten 7-11-2 ... B Storey = 19-1 LOPE ODUROUS 370 M technicus 6-11-2 C McCarrusck (3) = 7-9 LUTHAN COMMODRE 27 N Richards 9-11-2 ... P Noven = 7 2268 PMLACE OF GOLD 10 (F.G.S.) Lumpo 9-11-2 ... R Supple 0 0:2-2 UP FOR RAUSGUE 11 (7) Mrs A Nanjahan 10-11-2 J Supple 01 0:2-2 UP FOR RAUSGUE 11 (7) Mrs A Nanjahan 10-11-2 J Supple 01 5310 LESSOLLE 53 (8F.D.F.S) N Rackade 7-10-11 ... A Dobbin 01 18-34 STORM CALL 20 (5) 0 Whitas 6-10-11 Mr J P McKamas (5) [BE] 3-1 Jessoile, 5-1 Castle Clear, Up For Runsome, 11-2 Forest Tribe, 6-1 others.

3.20 JAMES BARCLAY MEMORIAL HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,815: 2m 6f) (7 runners)

2-1 Aziec Plysr, 4-1 Vilgrano, 9-2 Pros Echo, Planning Gain, 6-1 others.

3.55 ARTHUR CHALLENGE CUP (HANOICAP CHASE) (£3,737: 2m 4f) (5 runners) 1 3F61 WEAVER GEORGE 11 (D.F.G.S) W Storey 9-12-1 (See)
1 3F61 WEAVER GEORGE 11 (D.F.G.S) Mo; M Revoley 9-12-1 (See)
2 -F31 HARFDECENT 16 (F.G.S) Mo; M Revoley 8-11-9 (Novem 1053 1R05 FRN TERRIER 11 (D.G.S) F Manson 7-11-8 C MCCommack (3) 88
4 -RUP RACHAEL'S DWEN 11 (8F,CD,F,G.S) J Golder 9-10-11
A Dubbon 105-

5 52-P NE.WAY 11 (F.C.S) M Barne; 9-10-11 ... S Taylor ... 6-4 Harklezent, 13-0 Weaver George, 11-2 Fen Terms, 6-1 RacteeFs Owen. 25-1 Nijwey.

4.25 AYRSHIRE AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION CUP (HUNTERS CHASE) (£1,494: 2m 5f 110yd) (10 runners)

1 P2- ALTS ALDR 383P (C.D.G.S) Avian Dictoren 12-12-5 No C Mathell (7) 1 P2- ALTS ALIS 303" (00-007) Mr C Milmon (7) —
2 1P-F HOWAYMAN 47P (CD.F.G.S) K Anderson 9-12-5 Mr K Anderson ETG.
3 33-1 PPPER O'DRIJMANONO 26P (6,5) Mes P Ribecon 12-12-5 Milss P Robson 4-450 BORDER GEORY 12P (S) W M Soud 8-11-1 Mr K Plennick (7) 77

4 -450 BERRICH GEGET 167 (c) Mr. K. Remines (c) (c)
5 U2-P EASTLANDS HI-LIGHT 26P (G,S) J Sameley 10-11-12
Mr. T. Mortson (7) 94
6 R11- THE OBEN LINE 300P (F,6) Mrs. J Funeza 10-11-12
Mr. 6 Gibson (3)
Mr. 6 Gibson (3)

5 5-22 POETIC INTRIGUE (2P) (B) A Traite 7-11-8 Mr R Troiter (7) = 5-09 STRATH-MADRE LODGE 28P (D.F.G) K Robicso 10-11-7 Mr R (Alongam (7) = 10 -P22 SPARTAN BREEZE 12P J Hoppes 0-11-3 Mrs L Bradburne (7) = 11-4 Howayman, 3-1 The Doin Line, 5-1 Paper O'Drummond, 0-1 AV's Alib, 8-1 Hopies Delight, Postic Integue, 10-1 Spartan Breeze, 33-1 others

5.00 CAPABILITY SCOTLAND & SCOPE NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,882; 2m) (7 runners)

1 2421 MR BUSBY 27 (D.S) Mrs M Bentley 6-12-0
M H Namphon (S) 91
2 F153 BIT D MASIC 23 (D.F) R Altan 7-11-3 Section (B Story) 89
3 6-61 WESTERN GENERAL 11 (D.S) Mrs K Maligan 8-10-11 (Rec)
R Guess 78 4 B-D2 SAN FRANCISCO 49 A Whiles 5-10-10 S 1 aylor 278 5 PLPS DLLES BDY 27 J Backly 8-10-0 McCormack (3) 5 - 5-004 JDA HOLLEY 86 M Hammond 6-10-0 B Harding 81 PSPP MEADOWLECK 11 W Young 10-10-0 J Supple 2-1 Mr Bushy, 1-2 Bit O Magic, San Francisco, 4-1 Western General, 13-2 Jona Holley, 33-1 Offics Boy, 100-1 Meadowieck

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRANSERS D Whittans, 4 witners from 16 numers, 25 0%, A Whalkins, 11 from 49, 32.2%, F Mortagh, 4 from 18, 32.3%, Mrs U Reveley, 25 from 128, 30.3%, U Hammond, 11 from 58, 16.2%, JCCKEYS, A Dobbin, 33 winners from 171 rides, 19.3%, R Supple, 17 from 163, 16.5%, S 14yro, 10 from 64, 15 6%, B Story, 22 from 149, 14.8%, R McGarth, 10 from 64, 14.7%.

HEREFORD

THUNDERER 1.50 Be My Judge. 2.25 Distant Echo. 3.00 Asinbox. 3.30 Shadiann. 4.05 Gratomi. 4.40 Archer. 5.10 Pennyahel.

Carl Evans: 4.40 Mr Dow Jones. GOING: GOOD TO SOFT

1.50 BONUSFILM NOVICES HURDLE (£2,892: 2m 3f 110yd) (16 runners)

(\$2,892; 2m 3f 110yd) (16 funiters)

1 PIF4 ANSINA 1B1 (G) J Tuck 8-12-2 H. Oliver (5)
2 4 ANGISS 18 K Basley 0-11-2 N. Williamson
3 4 BE MY JUDGE 67 Mr.s V Williams 6-11-2 C. Majude
4 90 BERYMORD 51 00 Muray Smith 5-11-2 O. Galaghier
5 141- CAHER SOCIETY 248P (S) J O'Shea 7-11-2 Michael Brenson
6 50 CHARWHEL 21 Mrs S Johnson 6-11-2 R. Thomston
7 13 HAPPY MLSSAR 70 (S) H. Daly 0-11-2 R. Thomston
9 /0-P MASTER CHUZZLEWIT 139 5: 6 Lodfrints 8-11-2 Mr. J. J. ANGEN 19 PRENCE Mrs. LWHISENSON 5-11-2 S. Wyene
10 600- ODOA'S CHAPPEL 4:00 D. Duggen 5-11-2 N. E. J. J. ANGEN 19 000 ODOA'S CHAPPEL 4:00 D. Duggen 5-11-2 R. Thomston
11 //330 REFLECTING 181 A James 10-11-2 R. Hobson (7)
13 61 LADY FOR 1EF 190F (S) B Priblic 4-10-9 J. A McCarthy
14 00 EMPHATIC B. J. Pottman 4-10-7 Mr. N. Febby (7)
15 PICHON BARON 84° A Reid 4-10-7 Mr. N. Galagner
16 PP POSTUP GOLD 22 L Grassick 4-10-7 V. Skattery
5-4 Anges. 3-1 Lady For Life, 5-1 Be My Judge, 6-1 Happy Hussan, 6-1 otters.

2.25 TRIPLEPRINT NOVICES CHASE

1 133F DISTANT ECHO 15 (D.F.G) P Nicholis 9-11-8 ... R Thomson 2 3551 SQL MUSIC B (D.S) J King 7-11-8 ... A P McCoy 3 4525 JACK 17 J Tock 7-11-2 ... R Bellamson 4 100P ROSENCRANT SB (D.F.G) Miss V Williams 7-11-7 N Williamson 5 5005 ROYAL RAPPORT 98 (V.D.F.) J O'Shag 6-11-2 Michael Brownen 11-10 Distant Echo, 2-1 Sol Music 9-2 Rosencratz, 8-1 Jack, 66-1 Royal Rapport

3.00 BONUSPHOTO NOVICES SELLING HURDLE (£1,870, 2m 1f) (13 runners)



COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRABERS: Miss V Williams, 9 witness from 23 momens, 39.1%; M Pipo, 32 form 96, 33.3%; P Nicholis, 11 from 39, 26.2%; P Richers, 3 form 11, 27.3%, P R Webber, 5 from 18, 25.5%; P Morphy, 7 from 27, 25.9%, 30CRYS, A McCorp, 28 winners from 91 fries, 20.9%; C Maude, 11 from 43, 25.6%; J Julius, 3 from 14, 21.4%; D Gallagher, 4 from 25, 16.0%, J McCarlly, 4 from 28, 14.3%; X Augustu, 6 from 43, 14.0%.

3.30 BONUSPRINT HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,518: 2m 3f 110yd) (8 runners) 11-4 Tremendisto, 3-1 Halona, 7-2 Sharbara, 1-1 Waller's Dream, 6-1 Range Sloane, 10-1 Shu Gaa, Island Vision, 33-1 Sirabaya.

4.05 DOUBLEPRINT HANDICAP CHASE (£4,275: 2m) (9 runners)

1 4-PP MUSIC PLEASE 10 (CD,G,S) B Prece 7-11-10
Mr H Enhance (7-12-14)
2 4136 FERRUFINO 80 (D,F,S) P Rich 11-11-8 LJ Griffins (5)
3 511P PLAY GAMES 45 (CD,F,G,S) R Let 11-11-6 N Williamson
4 -436 CDLONEL 88.AZER 118 (BF,D,F,G,S) Most H Ningth 7-11-5
D GALlamber 5 0600 DAMAS 24 (B.D.F.G.S.) D McCan 8-11-5 ... A C Coyle IS, 5 F122 GRATOMA 14 (BF.C.D.F.G.S.) P Nuchers 9-11-2 ... A P (Accord 7 372-8 AAOPACH 314 (BF.C.D.F.G.S.) P Nuchers 9-11-2 ... A P (Accord 7 372-8 AAOPACH 314 (D.S.) Ms H Mubbly B-10-10 ... D McPrazi 15 8 F121 COOL SPOT 25 (CO.S.) G Empty 11-10-10 R Teoretical 9 2122 MORTHERN SADDLER 10 (BF.D.F.G.S.) R Hodge: 12-10-1

4.40 BONUSPRINT HUNTERS CHASE (£1,532; 3m 1l 110yd) (10 junners)

1 UF1P ARCHER 0 (CDF.S) R Lewis 11-12-4 ____ Mr A Price (7) 2 36-1 CHARMER'S WELL 23 (G.S) G Brown 11-12-4 Mr N Fehrly (S) 3 622/ EMERALD KNOCHT 70SP (G) R Harney 9-12-0 Mr H Hambey (7)

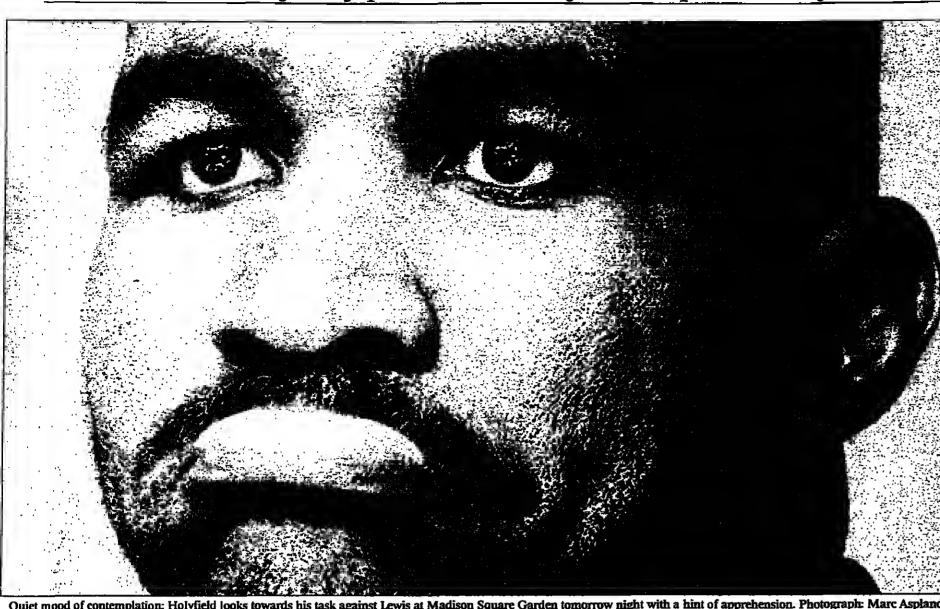
2.1 Mr Dow Jones, 5-2 Charmer's Well, 7-2 Rusty Fellow, 6-1 Archer, 10-1 Native Rambler, 20-1 Creville Again, 23-1 Emerald Knight, Osceola, 50-1 others.

5.10 DOUBLEPRINT NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,472: 3m 2f) (13 junners)



9-4 Arric Grooms, 11-4 Pennyahet, 1-1 Elifemethouse, 8-1 Welburn Boy, Alph Leather, 10-1 September Breeze, Another Chancer, 20-1 Others,

Steward feels heavy-duty punishment may catch up with Holyfield as the big fight approaches



Quiet mood of contemplation: Holyfield looks towards his task against Lewis at Madison Square Garden tomorrow night with a hint of apprehension. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Time for Lewis to come of age

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT,

IT HAS been said by an American critic of Lennox Lewis that the only way he can lift the world heavyweight champion-ship at Madison Square Gar-den is if Evander Holyfield wakes up 50 years old tomor-row, the day of the bout. Clearly the expert does not believe that there is the slight-

est chance of Holyfield, who is 37 this year, waking up in the ring feeling his years. Yet it happens all the time to old

Boxers can grow old suddenly in the course of a contest, as lack Dempsey did at the age of 32 against Gene Tunney, to be followed by others such as Boh Foster, 36, against Jorge Ahumada, Joe Brown, 36. against Carlos Ortez. Sugar Ray Leonard, 34. against Terry Norris and, nearer home. Jose Napoles, 35, against John Stracey - and that after Napoles had

knocked Stracey down first. The blows inflicted on those fighters over the years had taken their toll. Among heavyweights who have taken more than their fair share of punch-es. Holyfield must be in the top ten of the all-time list. While Emanuel Steward.

Lewis's trainer, knows that it takes only one blow in a fight to start the ageing process in veterans like Holyfield, he is not banking on it. He is not ruling it out, either. He said: "I'm not pushing that too much for this fight, but it could happen at any time because I know that all the punches Evander has taken will have their effect one day.

you. They might make you a warrior and give you recognition, but they for sure.

"Beatings are not good for



he was as a boxer, had tough fights with Kenny Norton and Joe Frazier, even with George Foreman, and all of a sudden you see the effect of the beatings. He didn't get the recognition of being a warrior by being a do-nothing, running fighter. He kept taking a pounding and kept coming back. So all of it could come

back in this fight, too." Steward said that the resist-

Jake LaMotta, who took more punches than most fighters, remains unaffected to this day, but Sugar Ray Robinson, one of LaMotta's contemporaries, suffered severely from brain

damage.
"Wilfred Benitez was one of the best defensive fighters I have ever seen," Steward said. "But look at him now. Everybody is affected differently.

"Look what happened to Rid-

shot. Yet Evander, who took a serious beating and a bad knockout in his last fight with Bowe, looks all right at the moment. We don't quite know which light started the process in Pour "It could have been the first fight with Evander, when they

"In his last fight with

Golota, he was completely

had that tremendous toe-to-toe at the Thomas and Mack in Las Vegas. So, like Bowe, Evander could go at any

Bowe suddenly had prob-lems keeping his weight down, lost his resistance to a punch and, in short, became what is known in the sport as a "shot fighter".

Steward believes that Lewis hits hard enough to make Holyfield feel his age during the contest. "I believe Lennox

two with Holyfield. The furny should be fighting, a big, pow-thing is. Bowe did more damage than Holyfield. should be fighting, a big, pow-erful kid (Lewis is 34) who is one of the hardest punchers in the business. Lennox has not had beatings. He has had tough fights which have only made him stronger." As far as Lewis's readiness

for the contest is concerned. Steward was more upbeat yesterday. He said that he had shown signs of improvement in his mental attitude to the fight since his move to New York from the Pocono Mountains, where he had been train-

ing for II weeks.
"The move has had a beneficial effect on Lewis." Steward said. "The hreak was what he needed. Even I used to go off to Detroit to see my kids in the gym and, when I came back to camp, I felt refreshed.

"I spoke to Lennox and told him that he looked stale, but now, with the fight approaching, he is really focused and very warm towards people, and remotivated."

it is a long time since he spent his years in prison — for killing a man in the street — brushing up oo what he proclaims to be his vast philosophical knowledge. Whatever he learnt there, the result

is close to H L Mencken's observation that "no one ever lost money by underestimating the intelligence of the masses of the plain people. King can afford to pay Holyfield \$20 mil-lion and Lewis \$10 million before he and his cohorts share the greater spoils of allegedly more than 100 million pay-per-view subscribers.

Grim? There was also pantomime in the Garden theatre yesterday, with Ricky (Sid Owen) from East-Enders, Chris Eubank and Frank Maloney, the manager of Lewis, in the supporting cast to King. Without having to open his mouth, Maloney cut a ridiculous caricature of Englishness: mannequin in size, dwarfed by King, he was dressed from head to toe in the colours of the Union Jack and beneath his squashed flat cap, also in red, white and blue, he looked every inch a stray street-ur-chin out of Dickens.

The boxers may not have the personality of Ali, obviously not the intellect of Einstein, but, for however long it takes on Saturday, the sporting world on both sides of the Atlantic will be drawn to them. Even the cameraman will know which is which, particularly if one remains vertical while the other is horizontal.

Lennox up to now.
The fighters themselves

don't really talk about the science of hitting, at their final press conference on Wednesday afternoon, they wearily reiterated their postures regarding Saturday night. Holyfield said again that he would knock out Lewis in the third: Lewis maintained, boorishly, that Holyfield was a hypocrite. Oddly, though, neither of them seemed in a desperate

It was a ghastly occasion.

Bobbing and weaving as the press box clever

o I was schmoozing with the local press guys— one of whom is rather wittily wearing a trilby with a fake PRESS ticket tucked into the band — and one of them rethe band — and one of them re-peated what Evander Holy-field had just told him. "He said be's fed-up with people saying he'll fight on the inside," he confided. "He says he's going to fight Lewis on the

Which was when it hap-pened, you see. As the others paused to absorb this thrilling new information, I reacted -and with all the breathraking confidence of someone who has never watched a fight, and had until a month ago only heard of Holyfield on account. of someone chewing his ear. That's nonsense," I said. "Holyfield's not big enough." At which the guys looked as surprised as if I'd just struck them with a fancy bolo punch (half-hook, half uppercut, if you're interested) while whistling "God Save the Queen".

it was bound to get technical, sooner or later. What's the point of watching this world heavyweight championship bout if you don't know (for example) that Lewis has a powerful left jab, while Holyfield is a whiz at hooking? Boxing is a whiz at hooking? Boxing isn't brawling, you know. And since the point of the contest on Saturday is that Holyfield and Lewis will attempt to land

effective punches on each other, a vague idea of how they'll get their fists into the right place at the right time is obviously pretty im-portant. I've just found out what a rabbit punch is, incidentally. But it has nothing to do with hopping, which is sad.

this is

what a

phoney

like?

Sometimes, in the privacy of my hotel room, I make a pair of puny fists. turn the mirrors to bounce around on

anticipate how the bout will go. Jab, jab, jab, toof, toof. Hook, hook, hook, toof, oops, fell over. But it's not much use. My hooks describe the same feeble arc as a windscreen wiper and travel at roughly the same speed: my jab would shatter a poppadum (but not six) and makes my shoulder hurt. Even the balls-of-the-feet thing is tricky. And to top it all, remembering to say "toof, toof, toof" all the time is thor-

oughly exhausting.

Back with the guys, the intriguing thing about this contest is that nobody can predict what it will elicit from them technically. There is an idea that ace trainer Emanuel Steward has broadened Lewis's skills, but, on the other hand, nobody can argue with the fact that powerful slugging has been quite sufficient for

hurry to get the gloves on and start thrashing out these important differences.

that press conference. If this is

LYNNE TRUSS



In New York

the glamorous pinnacle of box-ing, I can tell you for nothing I wouldn't want to be in Widnes on a wer Wednesday. Chaos reigned. Film crews with heavy, angular cameras on their shoulders swivelled without due regard for the safety of others. Boom mikes dangled and bobbed. Once the tuxedoed Don King took the stage, the chaos subsided, of course but at a heavy price. because then he proceeded to yell at us for a full hour so loudly that I had to put my

fingers in my ears. Toof, tool," I whispered softly, to keep my spirits up. The only mildly exciting aspect to the occasion was the discovery of Ricky Butcher, from East-Enders, sitting in the same row. I always knew that six

years as television critic would come in handy one day. I went and said hello, which seemed to alarm him, so I said goodbye as well. Meanwhile, on stage, promoters, managers and fighters each gave us a wave, while to the left (for no apwar feels parent reason) Anthony and Cleopatra stood in full Vegas rig-out - Cleo-

the balls of my feet, trying to usual authentic Egyptian lapis lazuli headdress several duster-yellow ostrich feathers. which regrettably made her look more like a showgirl than a queen.

I suppose this is what a phoney war feels like. Last week I was dreading the fight; now I wish they'd settle it, dammit, toof, toof, hook, slice, fade, birdie, hang on, something wrong there - and show us what they can do.

I have heard so much about Lewis's jab that I've simply got to see it in action, even though I still deplore the whole bloody business. I also feel a faint urge to see one of these two champs buy a one-way ticket to Palookaville, and I never thought I'd say that in my life.

o the expertise is shap-ing up. I now know a "knockover" is not an easy heist in a post office and an "undercard" is not a novice Leslie Phillips. Did you know that "up to scratch" is a term derived from boxing? It turns out that in the 1740s a line was scratched across the centre of boxing arenas. Rounds ended in those days only when a man was knocked down. Whether to embark on another round depended on whether the contestants could both make it to the scratch; if they couldn't the fight was over. Ask me anything, go on. But if you'll excuse me — jab. jab, feint, toof, toof — I've got some research to do.

ance of old boxers to punches dick Bowe after just four hard varied from fighter to fighter. fights: two with Golota and is the worst guy Holyfield Fighting to make sense of the heavyweight hype

FROM ROB HUGHES, CHIEF SPORTS WRITER

its windows impenetrably dark, cruises away from Madison Square Garden. A television cameraman is in frantic pursuit on foot, risking his neck in the traffic of Seventh Avenue for a brief footage of film that can only hint that Lennox Lewis - or is it Evander Holyfield? - has just left the Garden for the last time before We are all on the outside looking

he black stretch limousine.

in. The growing attraction of the world heavyweight unification bout tomorrow is that nobody really knows the winner in advance and, like the intrepid cameraman, we focus attention daily on one or the other of the pugilists, seldom drawing clear distinctions from them in terms of personality or in probability about which is the better. On sheer technique, it is, or was, Holyfield, but as boxing writer interviews boxing writer, the age factor and a presumed accumulation of punishment by Holyfield, sustained in boxing wars earlier in his long career, blur the vision as to the eventual out-come. We shall know tomorrow.

What I could have told the cameraman is that it was Lewis who was driven away from the Garden, because inside the theatre of Madison Square, above the sprawling and unlovely Pennsylvania station. Holyfield was fulfilling his obligation to update the Evander Holyfield

The restraint of both boxers is a fitting response to a sport whose dark, open secrets are incarcerated with Mike Tyson. The closest that the preambles have come to controversy have been when Holyfield was asked to explain his uncharacteristic

boast that it will end in three rounds,

that he will knock Lewis out. "Why three rounds, Evander?" everyone asks. "Because of the Father, the Son

and the Holy Spirit," he drawls. So the microphones move on to Lewis. "What did you mean, Lennox. when you said Holyfield is a hypocrite? "If somebody says something and

does something different, to me that sounds like hypocrisy," Lewis responds. "It is preposterous that he is saying he will knock me out in three rounds and I was just trying to say that, if he's truly religious, why is he breaking the Commandments every second?

Presumably a reference to Holy-field's confession that five of his nine children were born out of wedlock to riled Holyfield, hut he showed the other cheek.

"I'm not a hypocrite," he replies mildly, "I'm a winner." This is all that those in the box

office in New York, working to sell the contest, have to feed on and they do it with febrile over-imagination, stating that this repartee proves the



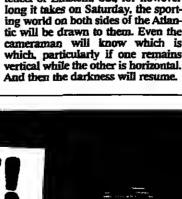
deep animosity between the rivals and between the camps.

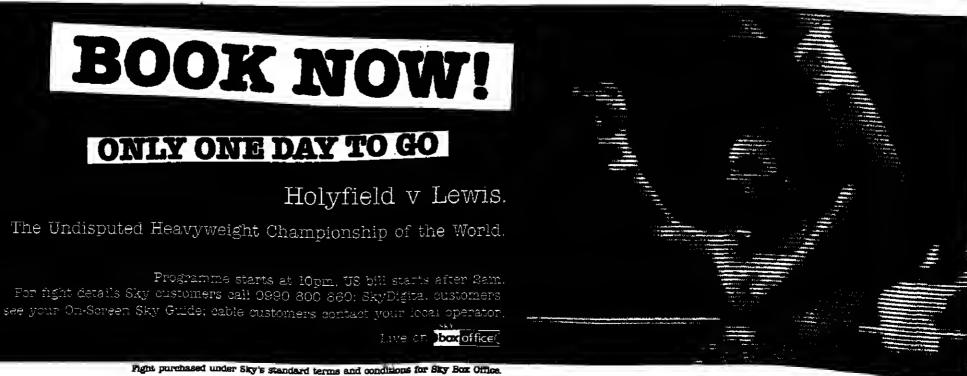
different women. That ought to have Full flow: King, right, with Lewis

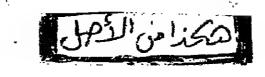
Madison Square Garden has been doing this kind of image-building business since before we were born.

Furthermore, it was the original home of closed-circuit television (CCTV), which began in 1955, when the inauguration of CCTV generated \$1,125,000 for the world heavyweight championship bout between Rocky Marciano and Archie Moore. By 1971, when Muhammad Ali took on Joe Frazier in the Garden, the capaci-ty crowd of 20,455 paid a "live" take of \$1.3 million and the pay-per-view television, relayed to 35 cinemas. amassed \$20 million more, so that the pugilists could each take home \$2.5 million. The entrepreneurs took

much of the fat, presumably. nly the numbers seem to change. When Don King the promoter, is in full, demeaning flow, trampling over many of the world's troubles to drum up his business, it has all the effect at close quarters of standing in front of a blow-dryer. King is 67 and







THE TIMES FRID

HILE players have been release. tencies aimed at cutting south Alled Dunbar Premiership do rent Cabannes, Dominic Cha aurian Dayles and Irin Har smith have had their contracts nated but may commune play appreurs. They are primal-administrative staff, who has lost their july.

The cuts were instigated in review by administrators, who ever the maning of the clop as en withdrew his financial se Players have also accepted reli-in salary of other 10 or 20 per m pendent on levels of insume. I them is Ben Clarke, the captain You have to lead by con-

Clarke said yesterday. "It be been an easy week for anyone gub, but we have to put that ? us as far as is possible in the a

James ride art o capta

FROM the day that Mark James was ಮಾಡುವರ್ಗಿಸಿಕ ನೇಕ Europe Ryder Cup appears was obvinos mai by 400/4 bring to the post a different style to that of his pro-Accessor In the lead-up to the mand Severiano Ballioter y grew m creasingly interior factors at not. During the Ryder com itself. Ballesteres seattana rutuer and you like an action speed; fames, be asset of se-

do everything 🚅 🦮 🔗 unhurried page The contrast in increase was highlighted again year day when it was necessarily James, having just place of put himself in with the second place with Hothers root + 1...... spaña Masiers at the Parason Malaga del Golf, basa places

alongside John Bickerton Bickerton has prompiled three top-ton fine-may to stone from highly combined to goth place in the Luropeter states of mericand on to the trange of the top or in in the Ry for Com dered it James had යන්නේ හ play with turn to run harmans terial even wer him. Ballester is भारत होते प्रकारतीय पर विद्याल ey, but James, trackersasia heavy many along mack-berdled at the very suggestion.

"I certainly didn't," be said.

"In fact. I'm determinasi nat as

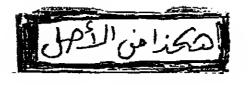
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Richmond release four as crisis bites

FOUR players have been released by Richmond in a first wave of redundancies aimed at cutting costs at the Allied Dunbar Premiership club. Laurent Cabannes. Dominic Chapman. Adrian Davies and Jim Hamilton-Smith have had their contracts terminated but may continue playing as amateurs. They are joined by six administrative staff, who have also

The cuts were instigated after a review by administrators, who took over the running of the club at the be-ginning of the week when Ashley Levett withdrew his financial support. Players have also accepted reductions in salary of either 10 or 20 per cent, dependent on levels of income. Among them is Ben Clarke, the captain.

"You have to lead by example," Clarke said yesterday. "It has not been an easy week for anyone at the club, but we have to put that behind us as far as is possible in the circumstances in preparing for Saturday's game [against Bath]."

Clarke, who joined Richmond on a three-year contract reputedly worth £100,000 a year, added: "We as players realise our importance and contribution to the business. There has been a fantastic response from every-body. Of course it is unsettling, but you have to face and accept reality." Newcastle Falcons, Richmond's

opponents in the semi-finals of the Tetley's Bitter Cup, appear to find it easier to annact millionaire backers than supporters. In the wake of the departure of Sir John Hall, the club said yesterday that Dave Thompson and Paul Mackings, both wealthy local businessmen, had become chairman and chief executive respectively of the Premiership champions.

Thompson has acquired the 76 per cent shareholding previously held by Hall's Sporting Club for a nominal fee. As Newcastle's debts have also THE PERSON

By Mark Souster and Alasdair Reid

been written off, his money will be used to underwrite future losses. The business expertise he acquired before retiring from the successful informa-tion technology company he founded and ran will be directed towards keep-

ing those losses to a minimum.

Denying that there would be significant impact on the playing squad,
Thompson, 55, argued that the viability of the club depended upon boosting attendances. "I need time to produce a five-year plan, evaluating all
the issues," he said. "I believe supporters will come to the club if they feel comfortable in their surroundings." Squaring the financial circle will

not be easy. Even with full houses, Kingston Park's 5,500 capacity is well short of what is needed to support a wage-bill estimated at around El million a year. The average attendance this season has been less than 3,500. Rob Andrew, the director of rugby. will also take a sear on the board. He will remain registered as a player but his appearances next season are like-

ly to be kept to a minimum. Leicester have decided not to appeal against Austin Healey's extended five-week ban imposed by the Rugby Football Union for stamp-ing. Healey will not be able to play again until April 10.

Graham Henry, the Wales coach, yesterday antempted to broker a

peace formula that will prevent forther discplinary action being taken against Swansea and Cardiff by the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU). The rebel clubs faced the prospect of be-ing thrown out of the SWALEC Cup last night for refusing to pay fines of £150,000 imposed for playing unsancnoned marches against England's leading clubs.

At separate meetings with both chubs, Henry was accompanied by Vernon Pugh. Although only a nadonal representative on the WRU, the involvement of the influential International Pughs Page 1 designed in the property of the influential international Pughs Page 1 designed in the pughs Page 2 designed in the p tional Rugby Board chairman is highly significant. Henry has made it clear that the rift in Weish rugby must be healed if the nadon's playing fortunes are to improve. This week he and Robert Howley, the Wales captain, have called for peace, amid hopes that the victory in Paris on Saturday would signal a rapprochement between the warring factions.

The signs were that it was a forlorn hope. Both clubs are adamant that they will not pay the fines, the dead-line for which passed on February 28, while, publicly at least, the WRU is maintaining a hardline stance.

No shame in failure to cope with audacity

n the aftermath of Wales's victory against was a good deal of comment about the lack of really sound first-line defence from both teams. Since there was so much running and so many gaps appearing, the defences must have been at fault, it was

argued.
There are those who reason that a team's attack cannot be so good that it cannot be explained by a fundamentally flawed defence, while the converse is rarely promoted: a team's sound defence is never explained by the opposition's ineffectual attack. Tackling. after all, is more easily quantifiable than the subtlety that is

often required to score a try. Jean-Claude Skrela, the France coach, was the first to raise the matter. It is the coach's role, after all, to draw attention to and even accentuate the failings of his team in defeat. His job thereafter is 10 remedy those weaknesses.

Graham Henry, his oppo-site number, mentioned the point, too, but his comment was more osychological than practical. In all the excitement and the celebration in his camp he had to pick oo something in order to keep his players' feet rooted to the ground. There is always a tendency

to condemn a failure in defence when a try is scored. There is an assumption that since a player is within reaching distance of the man with the ball, a successful tackle can be accomplished. This is patently not so. Scott Gibbs, for example, was within touch-

ing distance of Keith Wood in the game against Ire-land but a swift unexpected shimmy from the hooker found the Wales centre, one of the hardest and most consistent tacklers in the busioess, at sixes and

This happened in open play and resulted from a Welsh error and an immediate counter-attack of the type French coaches have been preaching to their team. Last Saturday, both Wales and France attacked from sive birdies, has recovered deep within their own territory and when the opposition least expected it. It is unfair to eat - and is learning to say no es in a game in which both teams were intent on attack doesn't make me ored," she and using the width of the pitch as often as possible.

Keeping the play confined around the fringes of ruck and maul, not letting the ball go beyond the inside centre or arrange such movements that the ball returns to the mauls is a sure way of keeping the tackle count high. The play is in



GERALD DAVIES

Rugby Union Commentary

limited space and tactics performed to a precise panern. Since there is little risk, errors

What tackling there was in Paris was, in fact, good. Quite simply there was less of it because of the oature of the game. To improve the tack-ling all the teams needed to do was to change the basis of their tactics:; to be less expansive in other words. This is partly what happened in the second half. Relatively speaking, it was a more restrained period after the extravagances of the first 40 minutes.

It does say a vast amount for rugby that the laws can still allow two such contrasting matches as occurred at Stade de France and Lansdowne Road. If one game appealed more

to the eye than the other, this does not mean that the other was less engaging

to the miod. II should be rugby's fervent hope that it can retain the capacity for differhave ent strategies. The attraction of the Wales v England adopted a high-risk fixture oext month will be to see how strategy' the two countries.

who, on the evidence so far. employ widely different tactics. will respood to the other. England's orientation is towards their mighty pack of forwards, although their coach's desire. I fancy, is for something more varied. Wales, in all three of their fixtures, have had no real choice

at their disposal, as their

for the high-risk strategy. In consequence they have paid the price in two matches but have gained richly from the events of the third. Henry is not for turning nor, it seems, are his players. Now that each country knows what to expect of the other, might they not wish to modify their strategies? If not, then which

style will come out on top?

James adds rider to art of Cup captaincy

FROM MEL WEBB IN MALAGA

FROM the day that Mark James was announced as the Europe Ryder Cup captain it was obvious that he would bring to the post a different style to that of his predeccesor. In the lead-up to the match Severiano Ballesteros grew in-creasingly intense; James will not. During the Ryder Cup itself, Ballesteros scurried hither and you like an ant on speed; James, be assured, will do everything at his own.

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unhurried pace. The contrast in approach was highlighted again yesterday when it was noticed that James, having just had a 67 to put himself in joint second place with II others in the Turespaña Masters at the Parador Málaga del Golf, had played

alongside John Bickerton. Bickerton has compiled three top ten finishes to come from nowhere into eighth place in the European order of merit and on to the fringe of the top dozen in the Ryder Cup points list, and somebody wondered if James had asked to play with him to run his magischange any draw this season. If guys are trying to make an impression, you should not do anything to put more pressure

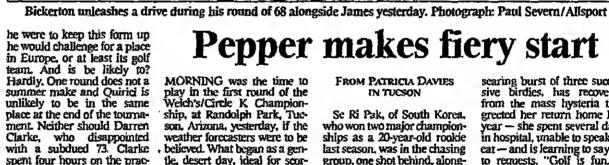
James's praiseworthy stance reveals his integrity and shows, too, the benefit of having been in a similar position himself in the Ryder Cup seven times, as a matter of fact. When you are trying to break free of the peloton, the last thing you want is your team captain climbing all over your mudguards.

James did, though, admit that there were circumstances in which he would consider tampering with the draw. "If I found that I was paired with somebody who is on the limit. I might ask not to play with them," he said. A good egg is

Mark James. His joint best round of the year left him two strokes off a blistering pace set by Paolo Quirici, who had nine birdies in his 65, seven under par. For years, the Swiss was a golfing equivalent of Nottingham Forest - too good for the first division (the Challenge Tour), not good enough for the Premiership (the European Tour) but last year he made the final broke through into a comfortable midtable position. To continue the analogy, if

stomped off the course. James did not go and watch. LINKS

tice ground after he had



FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Derby Storm 78
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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA):
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Cleveland 86, Los Angeles Lalians 84 Los
Angeles Clippers 75.

BOXING

Gill DHALL, Cambridge: Varsity eastets: Cambridge 4 Oxford 5 (Cambridge names first: Feetherweight: O Ottuno bt J Coloyco pts. Light: R Patter of J Bents. Light-reckler C Newman bt R Gussel rist. Welfer: N Doris lost to E Cartweight rist 1st. Light-middle: J Matthews bt R Gaudet No 1st. Middle 2 A Wilson lost to R Knowles rist 2nd. Middle 2 A Wilson lost to N Hardy pts. Light-heavy M E-hington lost to B Sharp to 1st. Heavy O Stack Jost to N Mulline rist 1st).

CRICKET

New Zealand v South Africa

CHRISTCHURCH (First day of five, New Zeelend won toss). South Africa, with all first-Innings wickets in hand, are 114 runs behind New Zeeland

NEW ZEALAND: First Imangs

Total 15. 7 WICKETS 1-13, 2-18, 3-60, 4-112, 5-115, 6-115, 7-138, 8-157, 9-157,

Total (no widt) S4

J H Kells, O J Cusinan, "W J Crone, J N
Rhodes, S M Politok, † M V Boucher, L
Kusener, P R Adams and A A Donald to bet,
BOMLING: Doult 55-2-60; Allott 9-2-9-0;
Nash 40-15-0; Assie 0.1-0-0-0; Vettori
4-3-1-0; Slead 1-0-1-0.

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: First day of four: Malbourne: Victors 252 (M P Mott 108, I.) Harvey 77; JAryal 5-60, Wastern Australia 0-0. Addiside: Cuserstand 239 (M I. Hay-chen 77, P Wilson 5-60; South Australia 19-1 Hobert Tesmania 256-8 (J Cox 128) v New South Wates

PARIS-NICE RACE: Pfilh stage (Cusson to Firmin), 187km; 1, S Botero (Col) 4tv 4Smn 58sec, 2, M Boogerd (Hol) at same time, 3, M Wauters (Se) 28sec, 8 etities placing; 68, C Boardman 15min 30sec 15min 50sec, 2 M Edmin 20th 27mm 28sec, 2, A Tehmil (Se) at 16sec, 3, Wauters 24, British placing: Generation 26min 28min 28min 24.

Umpres: K T Francis (Srl Lanks) and O M Quested.

7/3

8/3 8/3 8/3 8/3 8/3 8/3 8/3 8/3 8/3

.11/3

L = towar slopes: U = upper slopes

Second Test match

Pepper makes fiery start searing burst of three succes-

play in the first round of the Welch's/Circle K Championship, at Randolph Park, Tueson, Arizona, yesterday, if the believed. What began as a gentle, descrt day, ideal for scoring, was going to turn into a dust-blowing, rip-roaring one.

with winds of 30 miles an hour. Dottie Pepper, the United States Solheim Cup player, started as she meant to go on with a birdic three at the 10th. her first hole, and at the turn she was four under par, one shot ahead of the rest.

FOOTBALL

MORTHERIA COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Premier division: Halten 6 Surviey MVI COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENG LEAGUE Premier division: Cretocester Academy O Warringe C EFC Chelsenham 2 Carletton 1. Tuffey 2 Amondsbury O LEWISON WESSEX LEAGUE CUP: Sentificat, first leg: Coves Sports 0 Eastleigh O LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberyshyth 3 Cernaritien 2. Camarion 3 Newtown 1: Convey 2 Holywell 1. Cambran 6 Rhyl 1. Havertordwest 1 Rheyader O LINIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE-John O'Hera League Cop: Semi-final: Burgest RH 4 Eastbourne Town 1. NITERNATIONAL MATCHES: Roman D Israel 2 (in Bucherst), Greece 3 Crotata 2 (in Athens). Hungary 1 Boons 1 (in Buds-

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: Fornante Disnet 2 (in Bucharest), Greece 3 Croste 2 (in Athens), Hungary 1 Beens 1 (in Budapest); Switzerland 2 Austre 4 (in Si Galler), Levembourg 1 losernal 2 (in Levembourg) BELGIAN LEAGUE: Lokeren 3 Westerla D; Kortufi, 1 Genk 3.

DUTCH CUP: Charter-finat: Feyenoord 2 Vissae Anthem 1 (Feyenoord wan on golden goal nule)
GERIMAN CUP: Semi-finat: VIL Wolfsburg D Wender Bremen 1

Sachiman Cutri Saminimar VII, Wolsourg O Worder Bromen 1 FRENCH LEAGUE: Lens 1 Montpeller 0, Lonent 1 Pennes 1, Lyons 2 Autem 1, Mo-naco 0 Mez: 0; Pans Sami-German 0 Nantes 0, Smissbourg 1 Basba 1, Toulouse 0 Le Messa 0

Le Havre 0 ITALIAN CUP: Fiorentina 2 Bologna 2 (aet. Fiorentina win 4-2 on agg:

Wednesday's late results

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES

Se Ri Pak, of South Korea, who won two major champion-ships as a 20-year-old rookie last season, was in the chasing group, one shot behind, alongside a host of Americans that included Juli Inkster. Danielle Ammaccapane and Tammie Green, who no longer has the bump that aroused such interest at the Solheim Cup last September. The bump is now a little girl called Tina Marie, who arrived on December 3. Se Ri, who started with a

me tired sometime, sometime upset. I need 50-50, good balance of myself and my game." Lisa Hackney, of Stafford-shire and Florida, who started at the 10th, was out in one under par after a birdie four at

from the mass hysteria that

grected her return home last

year - she spent several days in hospital, unable to speak or

to requests. "Golf is fun. It

said, "but around golf makes

WESSTE: www.acropeenstour.com — Delly updates from Turispets on officeal tour sub TELEVISION: Sey Sports 1, 1pm (see) 7,30pm (tughights)

the 18th.

GOLF

MALAGA: Turespária Mestere: Leeding first-round scorest (Great Britain and Irstendi. 65: P Cuarci (Switz) 67: A Cebrura (Arg.). O Bonego (Sp.), R Winchester, M James C Hanell (Swe) F Leobson (Swe), F Lindgren (Swe). O Edlund (Swe), G Orr, P-U Johnsson (Swe), G Grout, R Gongalee (Arg.) 68th M Turinchif, J Besterion, K Tormon (Lapan), T Golgele (Ger.), J M Centies (Sp.), A Hansen (Deril, G Owen, 68: O Smyth, M Ponero (Sp.), M A Martin (Sp.), B Daris, M Olandes (Sae), O Cooper, P Broadhurs, D Gidord, M Scarpe (ti), M F any (Fr.), M A Jimrienz (Sp.), M Pillingfons S Webster, M Florioth (II), (Gine (Sp.), S Torrance, V Philips, A M-Lizrdy (Sr.), P Fullee (See) Other scorest: 71: S Ballesteros (Sp.), 72: J M Olazabal (Sp.), O Clerke (GB) Wednesday's late results

FA CUP: Shith-round replay: Chelsea D
Men Utd 2

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Blackburn
1 Everion 2 Detby 2 Astron Vills 1, Leeds 2
Tottenham D, Nortm Fores 1 Newcassle 2

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Second division: Stoke D Reading 4.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Chyclebank 1 Falluk 2

DR MARTEINS 1 EAGUE: Mildland division: Newport AFC 2 Paget 1; Soinul Borough 5
Blakerall 3, VS Rugby 3 RC Werwick 1

RYMAN LEAGUE: First division: Molessey
0 Canvey Island 0

HIGH-BAND LEAGUE: Cardmacutdun 4

Forres, Mechanics 1, Keith 1 Rothes D. Peterhead 2 Cove 3

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Norwich 5

Ray Rangers 3 Lison 1, Tottenham 6 Swindon 1 Pottmouth 1, Colchester 5 Carrond 19; Northampton 3 Milhadi 0, Queens Park Rangers 3 Lison 1, Tottenham 6 Swindon 2; Wimbledon 0 Wycombe 0

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: First division: Tranmers 2 Barnsley 3 Second division: Wrexham 2 Huddersfield 3, Third division: Virexham 2 Huddersfield 3, Third division: Virexham 2 Huddersfield 3, Third division: Caratter United Control 1 Wigen 2 League Cup Constructions! Stockport 3 York 2

NORTHERIN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Preciber division: Hallen 6 Savetey MW 1

COMPLETE MYSIC HELLENG C

RUGBY UNION

SNOOKER SHANGHAI: China International: Second round: A McManus (Scot) bt M King (Eng) 5-4 P Denes (Valse) bi M Williams (Wales) 5-2 Quantar-tiretis: W Snaddon (Scot) bt 5 Lee (Eng) 5-3. S Hendry (Scot) bt J Parrott (Eng) 5-2

BIDIAN WELLS, California: Chemplone Cape Second round: M Face (Chie) bit C Profine (F1 7-5, 6-1 X Malesse (Bell bit G harneswite (Cr) 7-5, 5-3, N Kuccra (Sovolea) bit I Heavett (Aus) 7-5, 5-3, N Semestrik (Holf) bit I Melipseri (Ar) 6-4, 2-5, 6-4, G Rusadski (GBI bit S Dreper (LS) 6-3, 6-3, R Krajoca, (Holf) bit J-M Gembil (US) 6-7, 7-5, 7-5, C Woodnoff (US) bit Planthus (Holf) 7-6, 6-3, M Selin (Russ) bit J Greeks (IS) 6-2, 7-6, M Philippouses; (Aus) bit A Corretp (IS) 4-6, 7-5, 6-2 T Mentrin (IS) bit P Careri (Sp) 6-2, 3-6, 7-6 F Merhilla (Sp) bit P Sempres (US) 6-7, 3-6, 5-3, C-Mchy (Sp) bit J Couner (IS) 7-8, 6-4 WTA Event Cup: Countries S Testind (F1) bit N Hengis (Switz) 6-1, 5-3, 7-8, Grad (Ger) bit J Novotra (Cz) 6-2, 6-0, S Williams (US) bit M Pierce (F1) 7-5, 7-6

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL Kick-off 7.30 unless stated denotes all-ticket

Nationwide League Second division Bristol Rovers v Futham (7 45)... NABOND LEAGUE: Premier division

Emiley v Worksop
THE TURES FA YOUTH CUP: Fifth
round: Newcastle v Middlestrough
SMIRNOFF IRESH LEAGUE: First
division: Limitedly v Dungarmori Switz. FAI HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier

FA PREMIER ACADEMY LEAGUE: Under-18: Coverny v Pelerborough (1.0): OPR v Wimbledon (1.0): Shelhed Wednes-day v Nottonjem Forest (1.0). Under-17: Peterborough v Coverny (1.0).

RUGBY LEAGUE Northern Ford Premierable Oldham v Barrow (7 45).........

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: New-castle Eagles v Lecester Robus (7:30). MOTOR: RALLYING: Vaudest Roby of

THE HARRODS DESIGNER SKI WEAR SALE. TAKE THE LIFT TO THE TOP.



Before hitting the slopes make sure you head up to Harrods Ski Department for the best selection of snowboard and ski wear. From Monday 1st to Saturday 13th March you'll find up to 50% off selected designer ski wear by such names as Bogner, Colmar, Killy, Schoffel, Armani, Chiemsee, Luhta, Jet Sel and Belfe. Whether you parallel, or soowplough when it comes to looking the part, a trip to the Ski Department on the Fifth Floor will make you an expert.

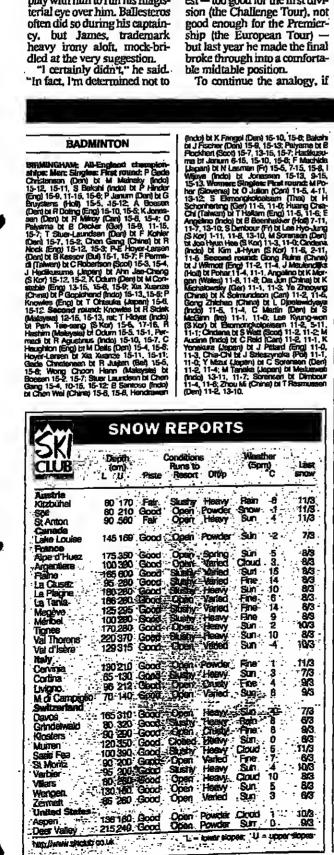
Sports and Leisure, Fifth Floor.



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TELEVISION CHOICE

Laughter for charity

Comic Relief: Red Nose Day 1999

The annual knees-up goes on until lam, live as always, so often subject to changes. But you can count on the usual suspects to bounce the fund-raising along. Hosts include Lenny Henry, Denise Van Outen, Zoë Ball, French & Saunders,

Julian Clary, Jack Dee and Jonathan Ross. "Alan Parridge" takes over from 9pm to 9.30m on BBC2 and then it's back to Lenny. Thanks to Channel 4 we've also got Chris Evans for a special TFI Comic Relief. And megastars appear in the oddest places ... Johnny Depp. Woody Allen, Matt Damon, Whitmey Houston, David Bowie.

betton John. To journt you back to sobriety there will be, as usual, plenty of those sometimes hard-to-watch film inserts about Third World poverty and how Comic Relief projects are tackling it.

Return to the Lost Gardens of Heligan

BBC1,7pm

Channel 4, 8pm

Trust Me. I'm a Doctor

Friday Play: Fisher of Men

BBC2, 8pm (except Northern Ireland)

Dr Hammond opens his show gulping a ham-burger and confesses that he likes junk food. No

wonder one warms to the man. But he then goes on

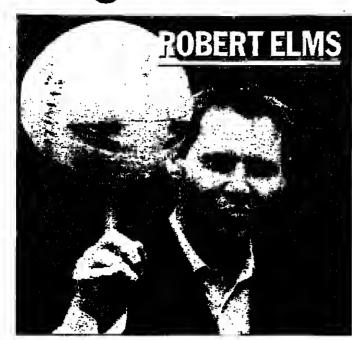
Football's new luvvies wrong to view Eighties as decayed

or the past fortnight a series of highfalutin, highly intellectual debates under the title 'Edge Of A Dream" have been taking place at the Royal Festival Hall. It's been an attempt to analyse "the cultural and stylistic impact of the 1980s with the likes of Andrew Mart and Polly Toynbee, Peter York and Bill Buford, Blake Morrison and Andrew Motion.

Despite covering almost every base from fashion to literature, pop to politics, there was not a single seminar on the great game. (Especially strange given that, at the end of the Eighties, Buford wrote Among The Thugs, the most risibly silly bit of soccer slumming ever attempted by an American academic in Doc Martens and arguably the first sign of the literati and the luvvies noticing what millions of ordinary souls actually did every Saturday.) We've had the Eighties pop

revival with Duran Duran, Culture Club and Heaven 17, so it's about time we reassessed the footballing decade that dare not speak its name. The Sixties are endlessly my-thologised. The Seventies sideburns, long hair, Chopper Harris, Leeds United et al are seen as some misty-eyed golden age. Yet for some rea-son (OK, Heysel and Hillsborough are both very good reasons), the Eighties are rarely celebrated, despite the fact that the tightest shorts worn in public outside of the annual Gay Pride Parade were sported week in, week out.

Certainly one of the good things about the Eighties is that it was a time when supporters were infinitely better dressed than players. Which is surely as it should be. These days, football is horribly fash-



fashion shows and dress in Armani while fans are woefully inclegant. A dozen years ago. though, footballers wore shellsuits and football was deemed profoundly un-chic. Yet the fans were immaculate. You didn't see flocks of sheep donning acrylic replica strips designed by the chairman's sister-in-law. Instead the ter-

races (remember those?) were the catwalks of the masses as style wars were fought out by legions of als boasting the

latest de rigueur designer duds. (Often "liberated" during continental shopping sprees that coincided with

European games.) The reason that such vicious sartorial battles took place in our charmingly antique and

the violence, usually considered to have been an Eighties problem, had largely subsided by then, at least inside the

It was actually in the late Sixties and Seventies that the foot-ball ghettos were at their most perilous. By the Eighties the hordes of consenting juveniles, who posed and preened on the

rigorously policed ends, had

ly bizarre and thoroughly Brit-

ish fashion phenomena, which

would have kept armies of

semioticians in government

grants. Except no self-respecting academics or sensitive arty

ression into a magnificent-

sublimated their

largely

archetypes ever soiled their flared denims by venturing to something as thoroughly déclassé as a football match. Now that there are legions

of Jeremy-come-latelys queueing outside Highbury and pon-tificating on every aspect of the game, it's easy to forget how lowly football was deemed to be in the Eighties. Pans were frogmarched and

strip-searched, vil-Legions of Jeremy-come-latelys ified and demonised. We were England's culturpontificate outside Highbury? al untouchables, sneeringly de-scribed by Martin Arnis as "having the breath

and complexion of a packet of cheese and onion crisps". Now, in the sanitised Nineties, Amis is a born-again football You had really to love the

game to go in the 1980s, but then you could go in the 1980s.

My prediction a few Arsenal v Tottenhar Hotspur FA Cup Final as a result, we are

The people who play and profit from the sport may love sold-out grounds, but it's a bitch for fans, who get ripped off and locked out.

Entry then was still cheap and you could pretty much pick any match and turn up on the day. I regularly went to Arsenal v Spurs derbies, despite caring little for either lot. The atmosphere was always thrillingly belligerent while essentially safe, the singing joyous if virulent and the stylistic statements fascinating.

Football in the 1980s had its back to the crumbling, graffiticovered wall; it was embattled, embittered but immaculately turned out. All in all it was a bit like being at war. And as in so many conflicts, the survivors remember it as the time our lives. Especially because Chelsea were spectacularly useless for the entire

weeks ago that we would have to suffer an is now looking a distinct possibility. And

witnessing a phenomenon that I can only call Final a phobia Shaky Spurs fans, who have witnessed the impressive form of their neighbours with more than a little dread, are scared witless of the possibility of handing Arsenal the double double. One of them said to me: "I would rather go out in the semi-final than face the ignominy of losing to the Gooners in the big one at Wembley.

Gerri Halliwell sees how Comic Relief helps people around the world (BBCI)

intestines which break down our food and help to cause the wind — but the bacteria themselves can be humoured as you'll see. Also brace yourself for an elderly patient who gets her severely ulcerated leg treated with maggots. These creatures went out of fashion when antibiotics came in, but now that so many superbugs are defeating this medicine the maggots are back and being purpose-bred. And so we say farewell ... to the memorable Cornish gardens and the double series about restoring them to their former glory. More than 300 years old and cared for through the early years by the Tremayne family "in the big house", the 150-acre estate is virtually perfect again. The Sun Dial Garden looks exquisite and John Nelson and Tim Smit are in their boat to further explore "the Lost Valley". Reminiscent of Monet this, with its luminous water paths and arched bridge into nowhere. As there isn't anyone in the big bouse now to finance the gardens, it is essential that visitors supply the funding and last year's dripping summer didn't help.

Channel 4, 9.30pm

This pacey, funny series — really a thinly disguised satire on the pop record industry — is ending tonight without the attention it has deserved. Of course it's no Spinal Tap but over the weeks the far from fab four and their various hangers on have developed into fully rounded characters. Now they're in the charts at No 11 (rival band Boyz Limited are at the top) and the writer-producer Richard Osman's docusoap approach watches how they cope with such ignomony. (Nicky puts his trust in Jesus.) Luckily for them all, a tame Bosnian terrorist blows up their rivals' bus. The wrong bus — the bomb was meant for Boyz Unlimited — but at least now the field is clear to rise and rise again. rise and rise again.

to explain how stuffing it down contributes to, er, gas. "The average adult produces a litre of gas a day." There are myriad "good" bacteria in the RADIO CHOICE

Radio 3, 11.30pm

Radio 4, 9pm

This is a terrific piece of work by David Constantine, a voice play in verse and prose. The fisher is the Rev Stephen Roos Hughes and the story tells of the events that led up to his early death. The voices are those of Hughes (loan Meredith) and his parishioners, a dwindling band in a poor, isolated Welsh community. Most have gone over to the Methodists ('the fishers were backsfiding to the old gods since the new one wasn't working'). Hughes asks God for help: "Send us a wreck or a million fish". The wreck duly arrives in the form of the Royal Charter, which was cast on to the North Wales mets by the storms

This mammoth series on the history of jazz is proving a constant delight and tonight Russell Davies performs a considerable service for anyone who still thinks that Louis Armstrong was a soppy sort of fellow whose main claim to fame was singing What A Wonderful World. In reality of course Sarchmo was a consummate trumpet player and tonight's programme concentrates on his recordings with the Hot Five in Chicago during the mid-1920s, shortly after he returned to the city following a stint with Fletcher Henderson's big band. These records were to be the making of Armstrong as a brilliant soloist and they provided the solid foundation for his long career fronting jazz ensembles of every size. Peter Barnard

BBC WORLD SERVICE

CLASSIC FM

6.00em Nick Beiley's Easter Breakfast, Music to get the day off to a fine start 8.00 Henry Kelly. The Hell of Ferne Hour and Classic Masterplece 12.00 Lunchtime Requests, Jane Jones plays favourite music 2.00pm Concerto. Defus (Violin Concerto) 3.00 Jamie Crick. Continuous Classics, plus sport updates and travel news 6.30 Newsnight, Top stories and

updates and travel news 6.30 Newshight. Top stories and Interviews with guests from the arts world 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven, John Brunning Introduces classic sounds 9.00 Evening Concert. Debbie Wiseman (Conversation for Orchestat); Richard Rodney Bennett (Portita); David Matthews (Bunham Wild); Beethovan (Overture, Corlotan Symphony No.8); Richard Strauss (Horn Concerto No.2) 11.00 Mann at Night. Music through the small hours 2.00mm Concerto. Delius (Violin Concerto) (r) 3.00 Mark Griffiths. The Early Breeklast Show

RADIO 1 (BBC)

was cast on to the North Wales rocks by the storms

of 1859. The consequences are to be far-reaching

5.00em The World Today 7.00 World News 7.15 Outlook 7.55 My Century 8.00 World News 8.05 Westway 8.20 Off the Shelf Letters From My Windmill 8.35 Science in Action 9.00 World News 9.05 The Art of Translating 9.20 John Peel 9.50 Sports Round-Up 10.00 Newsdeek 10.30 Britain Today 10.45 Your Questions Of Feith 11.00 Newsdeek 11.30 Focus on Feith 12.00 World News 2.05 Science in Action 2.30 Best on Record 3.00 World News 2.05 Science in Action 2.30 Best on Record 3.00 World News 3.05 Footbell Edra 3.15 Performance 3.30 The Wintage Chart Show 4.00 World News 4.15 Insight 4.30 Multiractic Alternative 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sports Round-Up 6.00 World News 7.05 Science in Action 7.30 Your Question Of Feith 7.45 Off the Shelft Letters From My Windmill 8.00 Newshour 8.00 World News 7.05 Science in Action 7.30 Your Question Of Feith 7.45 Off the Shelft Letters From My Windmill 8.00 Newshour 8.00 World News 7.05 World Business Report 9.20 Britain Today 9.30 Best on Record 10.00 World News 10.15 Sports Round-Up 10.30 Multitack Alternative 11.00 World News 11.05 Cutlook 11.45 Insight 12.00 The World Today 1.30 Meridien Books 2.00 The World Today 2.30 People and Politics 3.00 The World Today 2.30 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 4.30 Weekend 6.30am Zoe Bail 12.00 Jo Whiley 2.00pm Mark Redolfie 4.00 Dave Pearne 6.00 Pete Tong 9.00 The Longest Radio Show in the World — Everi 11.00 Westwood; Radio 1 Rap Show

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00em Serah Kennedy 7.30 Weise Up to Wogen 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 Jimstry Young 2.00pm Ed Stewart 5.06 Des Lynam 7.00 Motley at the Musicals (6/6) 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night, From the Demgate Theatre, Northampton 9.15 Single and Single, By John Ie Carré (3/8) 9.30 Usten to the Bend 10.00 David Jacobs 10.50 Sheridan Morley 11.45 The Péople's Psaims 12.00 Lynn Parsons 4.00em Leta Shanna

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

12,00 The Midday Nows with Alain Robb 1,00pms Ruscoe and Co 4.00 Drive with Peter Alien and Jene Genvey 7.00 News Edga 7.30 Alan Green's Sportanight, Studio guests discuss the week's sporting issues, Followed by live second-half commentary on Bristol Rovers v Fulham 10.00 Late Night Live 4 Others 10.418 Night Live TALK RADIO

5.00em Morning Records 6.00 Resident 9.00 Nicky Carnobel

6.00cm The Big Boys Breaklast 9.00 Scott Chisholm & Selly James 12.00 Motoring 1.00 Arms Restum 3.00 OK! to Talk 5.00 The Sports Zone 8.00 Nicky Home's Access all Areas 10.00 Dave Barrett 1.00cm Mike Dickin.

VIRGIN

6.30am Chris Evens 9.30 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Harriat Scott 7.00 Wheels of Steel 11.00 Janey Lee Grace

6.00am On Air Petroc Tretawny announces the winner of a new competition in Prague for young

6.00am On Air Petroc Trelawny announces the winner of a new competition in Prague for young musicians

9.00 Missterworks with Peter Hobday, Germinani, after Corelli (Concerto grosso in D minor (La folia); Brahms (Pretude and Fugue in G minor); Stravinsky (Jeu de canes); Tartini, arr Kraisler (Variations on a Theme of Corelli); Beethoven (Symphony No 7 in A)

10.30 Artist of the Week: Kyung-Wha Chung 11.00 Sound Storles: Indian Summers Donald Macleod remembers the later years of Ralph Vaughan Williams

12.00 Composer of the Week: Délius

1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Paul Barriti, violin, Catherine Edwards, piano, Eiger (Molin Sonata in E minor, Op 82); Walton (Toccata); Albert Sammons (Bagatesie, Op 3; Reve d'entant, Op 10; Dance caprice, Op 15; Petite chanson) (r)

2.00 The BBC Orchestras Ulster Onchestra under Niklas Willen, Hirokami Jun'ichi and Kenneth Montgomery, Mark Kaplan, violin, Music Includes Puccini (Pratudio Strifonico); Respite (Suite: The Birds); Menotti (Violin Concerto); Sibelius (Lemminicalnen Suite)

4.00 Music Reschored Lucie Skeeping introduces a Spanish edition featuring songs and guitar music by Fernando Sor and Dionisio Aguardo (r)

4.45 Music Machine Verity Sharp looks at small-scale instruments (r)

5.00 in Turne Sean Raiferty is joined by Thomas Hampson to discuss lamous Italian duets in the operatic repertoire for beritone and beas

operatic repertoire for baritone and bass

0 Performance on 3 Live from St David's Hall,
Cerdiff. EBC National Orchestra of Wales under
Nicholas Kraemer, with Catherine Bott and Rachel
Elliott, sopranos, Robin Blaze, countertenor,
Andrew Murgatroyed, tenor, Matthew Hargreaves,
bartone, BBC National Chorus of Wales. Handel
(Water Music: Suite No 2; Silete Venti; Concerto a
due cori No 1 in B flat) B.25 Handel in the Strand,
Vivaldi on the Phone. Mark Russell takes a
quizzical look at the history of Baroque music
B.45 Concert, part two. Handel (Diet Dominus)
0 Postseript: Radio Poems — Martan by Peter
Reading (5/5)

8.45 CO Real Poems — Marian by her Reading (5/5)
 10.00 Here and Now Verty Sharp presents The Opening of the Mouth, a major new work by Richard Barrett for voices, instruments and

Pichard Barrett for voices, instruments and electronics

11.30 Jazz Certury (Sounding the Century)
Presented by Russell Davies. See Choice (r)

12.00 Composer of the Week: Tehallowsky (r)

1.00am Through the Night 1.00 Gluck (Paride ed Elena). Roberta Alexander, soprano, Claron McFadden, soprano 3.15 Schubert (Overture in the Italian Style; Symptony No 9 in C) 4.20 Each (Centata No 21) 5.05 Schumman (Fary Tales, Op 132) 5.30 Giovanni Paolo Cima (La pace) 5.35

C.P.E. Bach (Concerto in F for two harpsichords)

5.40 km world News 5.35 Shipping Forecast 5.40 km hore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day 5.47 Farming Today with Rachel Morgan 6.00 Today with John Humphrys and Sue MacGregor 8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament Political news 6.00 Desert lettend Dises The Australian conductor Cheries Mackerras reflects on his caresr (r) 9.45 (FM) Serial: The Pleasures of the Table Anna Messey reads extracts from Honey from a Weed by Patience Gray 9.45 (LW) An Act of Worship 10.00 Worsan's Hour with Jenni Murray 11.00 Sharies and Seegulis: A Summer With Sussex in the first of two programmes, David Stafford follows the efforts of the new regime at Sussex County Cricket Club to overturn more than a century of underachlevement (1/2) (r)

County Cricket Club to overtum more than a cartury of underachlevement (1/2) (r)

11.30 Summy Side Up The Glee Boys enter the lest barbershop heats before the grand linale in Harrogate (5/6)

12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast 12.00 (FM) News 12.04pm You and Yours Consumer issues and public service reports, presented by Liz Barcley and John Waite

1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke

1.30 Puzzle Penet Chris Masterika presents riddles and brain-teasers

2.00 The Archers Yesterday's edition (r)

2.15 Afternoon Play: Family After A woman finds it hard to accept her new love's children — and their mother. Paul Bown and Lesley Nightingale star in Jayne Hollinson's tale (r)

star in Jayne Hollinson's tale (f)

3.00 Changing Places Howard Stableford explores
the creative use of natural resources at Earth
Balance, Northumberland, and in Sandford,
Devon, Last in series

3.30 Shorelines Strangford Lough, Northern Ireland,
Startick parties of the 1 IICs and means acceptance.

headquarters of the UK's mud-rescue coastguerd

3.45 This Sceptred Isle Part 50 of the history of Britain, narrated by Anna Massey (f)
4.00 Bootsclub James Naughtie and guests talk to William Boyd about Brazzaville Beach, his award-winning novel (f)
4.30 The Message Alex Brodie and his guests discuss current media trends
5.00 PM with Nigel Wrench
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 The Sunday Format John Morton's comedy about the stories generated by a fictional weekend newspaper. Starting Rebecca Front, Simon Greenall and Tony Gardiner. Last in series (4/4)
7.00 The Archers Ambridge calebrates Red Nose Day
7.15 Front Row Live aris programme
7.45 The Cry of the Bittorn Environmental drama, by Tim Jackson. Broadcast earlier as part of Woman's Hour (20/30) (f)
8.00 Any Questions? Authence members from Thatcham in Berkshire address panellists including John Redwood, Gleny's Kimnock and Lord Jenkins. Chaired by Jonathan Dimbleby
8.45 Letter from America by Alistair Cooke
9.00 The Friday Play: Fisher of Men David Constantine's tale. See Choice
10.00 The World Tonlight Robin Lustig presents
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Ernest Hemilingway
Cantanary — The Sun Also Risses The final part of Hemilingway's lamous novel
11 00 Late Night on 4: Late Tackle Eleanor Oldroyd chairs the sporting magazine
11.30 (LW) Today in Parlisment Political update

chairs the sporting magazine

11.30 (J.W) Today in Partisment Political update

11.30 (FM) Sport in the Movies Part one. Pal Butcher mestigates the history of sport on film (1/2)

12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Golf Dreams The American novelist John Updike recalls his

passion for golf. Last in series
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

A letter arrived on my desk recently on House of Commons headed notepaper. No, it was at sin invitation to take over from David Michor as head of the Football Task Force, but a response from Stripe Pound, Labour MP for Eating North, whose single Phad taken in vain in this chlumn. I had joked attitude how, in the aftermath of the Ron Davis Calphane Common affair, he was receiving a little stick at Westminster for the "In The Contages," where he

favour of QPR. The biggest problem he faces wa explaining to one so young why the Ranger's fainth is called A Kick Up The R's (surely not as tricky at



Westminster for the "Up The Cottagers" stickes he displays proudly in the back of his case. And much joshing about the present success of his side, he admitted, with some sudness, that his eight year-old son has rejected the Riversides has

One F in Fulham, his over than's fair right but it could have a far more tricky bit of emphasizing a sile to do.

There are plans afoot by some meet (February a sile to do.)

There are plans afoot by some meet (February a supporters to celebrate their expected promothers find dressing up for the last game of the season in full leather queen gear, to revel in their continuous nickname. Handlebus moustaches higher be obtained cape, chaps, though, a type of attrevenerty seen at football grounds. It's just a good job that they reshue always I become that they playing Liverpool that day.



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t is well known that Stephen Fry has a strong streak of yellow running through him — he is a life-long and still devoted apparent to the Wildean crown, one of the most urbanely brilliant minds in Great

Norwich City fan — but it comes as more of a surprise to learn that the heir Britain, has become besotted by arguably the most lumpen sport of them all. On Parkinson the other week, Fry admitted

that be had been spellbound by the aesthetic and artistic merits of this year's Embassy world darts championship final, from the glittering arena of dreams that is the Lakeside Country Club in Frimley Green. Hearing him wax lyrical about the new

Dutch masters, Raymond Barneveld and Co Stompe (do they play total darts, I wonder?), the organisers, anxious to drag their sport upmarket, spotted a PR coup and invited Pry to the final next year.

So if you see a large, not particularly athletic-looking chap, glass and fag in hand, deep in concentration down Frimley Green way and he isn't one of the players, no, you haven't been drinking more than Cliff Lazarenko and it isn't Barry Pry. Providing, that is, that one hurdle can be overcome.

"I'm looking forward to it immensely," Fry said from his table at Le Caprice in Mayfair.
"Except 1'm not exactly sure where Frimley

BOWLS

Scotland have prize in sight

SCOTLAND, who beat Wales on Wednesday, took two steps towards retaining the Hilton Trophy yesterday, first when they defeated Ireland by 45 that in the house interaction shots in the home international series at Bournemouth yesterday morning, then when England, who were expected to be their closest challengers, were surprisingly beaten by a

spirited Welsh side. With five winning rinks out of six, the Scots suffered a surprising reverse on the rink skipped by Alex Marshall, who won the world indoor singles championship in January. Marshall's brother, Robert, was skipping on an adja-cent rink and the contrasting fortunes of the two men was the talk of the stadium.

Alex Marshall, who was 15-10 ahead at 12 ends, lost 30-18 to a rink skipped by Noel Gra-ham, of Belfast; Robert Marshall was level, 12-12, with the rink of Gary McCloy after 11 ends, but went on to win, 33-13. Graham Robertson, who was 15-0 ahead after nine ends, and Graeme Archer,

who scored 15 shots to five in

the second half, returned win-

ning cards of 26-12 and 27-12

respectively, while Willie Wood and Jim Muir won by

more modest margins.

By David Rhys Jones

The 26-9 victory by John Price over David Cutler laid the foundations for the Wales win over England, but the form of Jeff Webley, who is skipping for his country for the first time this week, was a revelation.

Scottish hopes of winning the British team title for the eighth time in nine years are now high. Even if they were to lose to England today, the Scots are still likely to win the championship on shots countback, having established a healthy advantage of 74 shots in earlier games.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 46

HEADAGE (b) The number of animals, taken from head. "Abbey-Cwm-Hir Fox Destruction Society have decided to pay headage money on rabbits and carrion crows, as well as foxes, that are killed in the society's area."

MOUTAN (c) The tree peony, Paeonia suffruticosa, of the family Ranunculaceae, a large shrub bearing pale pink flowers, native to China and Tiber.

LAULAU (b) A portion of a Hawaiian dish of meat and fish wrapped in leaves and steamed or baked. Also, this cover of leaves. Hawaiian, reduplicated form of lau a leaf.

INTERFERON (a) A protein released by an animal cell, usually in response to a virus, which has the property of inhibiting further development of viruses of any kind in the animal. "The investigation of interferon, a chemical substance produced in men and animals and believed to act as the body's first line of defence against a wide range of virus infections, passed a critical stage in May 1962."

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE Solution: IBxg6! fxg6 2 f7+ Be5 3 Qf6+! Bxf6 4 Bxf6 checkmate. FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55em). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1063, 1069. Telavision and radio listings compiled by Perry Cleveland-Peck, lan Hughes, Giffan Maxwy, Jane Gregory and

made do wi thruppenny

cap-guns and rifles

nowadays; they're not content wi'

out they've got a four-foot Super-Lasertronic-Space-Soaker wi'

nuclear explosion sound-effects,

which can floor an old-age-

pensioner at 50 yards. Or a \$96 bil-lion International Space Station. New Star in Orbit, last night's

edition of Horizon (BBCZ), was an

awe-inspiring story. Never in the

field of human toy collection has so

much been paid by so many to so few. Well not so few, actually: the

United States space station conceptualisation and hypotheti-

cal design industry supports a

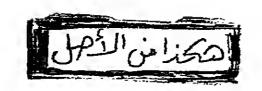
large, thriving community of bottins and research outfits at the

It was clear immediately that Ed

Harriman and Lara Hannay, the

producers, were a trifle sceptical

American public's expense.



JSINESS ROUNDUP victory in cine price War

MARCH IZ 1909

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reache enjoys growth Saturday's Vision SKY ONE

7.00mm Count Duckula (78831) 7.30 The Chris Evens Breekfast Show (31102) 8.30 Hollywood Squeres (59928) 9.00 Sally Jeesy Raphael (51725) 18.00 Oprah Wintry (53522) 11.00 Gullay (73385) 12.00 Janry Jones (89783) 1.00pam Med Aboud You (77102) 1.30 Jeopardy (86299, 2.00 Sally Jeesy Paphael (31812) 3.00 Jerny Jones (71893) 4.00 Gullay! (90228) 8.00 Star Treit. Voyager (2557) 8.00 America's Dumbest Chrishals (4299) 6.30 Friends (8251) 7.00 The Simpsons (1096) 7.30 The Simpsons (7783) 8.00 Beat- the Crushar (91302) 8.00 Really Caught in the Act (21366) 18.00 Cops (53473) 10.30 Cops (38693) 11.00 Friends (91657) 11.30 Star Treit. Voyager (23184) 12.30mm The 7.00mm Count Duckula (78831) 7.30 The

5.00 PRICENTED

6.00am A Change of Heart (1997) (53034) 10.00 Carpool (1996) (80395) 12.00 Saraing Secret (1996) (80395) 12.00 Saraing Secret (1997) (13357) 4.00 The Wedding (1997) (6547) 2.00 Carpool (1996) (26631) 8.00 Star: Treic: First Contect (1998) (36676) 10.00 Dente's Peak (1967) (29690) 11.00 The Spitiffs Griff (1998) (301536) 1.50mm Dead Again (1991) (513454) 3.40 The Eig Man (1990) (91572536)

presented the case for the prosecu tion very effectively. I suppose, for the sake of balance, we ought to dles. But we were appy! Little lads see a defence of the project, but t doubt it would be as convincing. We have known since the dawn

of the space race, apparently, that unmanned probes are vasily more effective research tools than manned expeditions and that they are a minute fraction as expensive. You can get a probe a billion miles past Saturn, sending back full colour snaps for the amount it costs to design a set of astronaut's spacepants. Or something like that. During the Cold War, the problem was always keeping ahead of the Soviet Union. The United States discovered, like Nazi Ger-

many before it, that the Russians

had a knack of stealing a march on

you, even with vastly inferior

resources. An ingenious but

simple solution will often do the

trick at half the time and cost of a super-sophisticated, high-tech one. ing and their documentary

The original pitch was for Ameri-

t was bad enough that they got the first man into space, they had to go and build the first space station, too. It was this, apparently, that got President Reagan going, and the boys from Nasa were invited to present him with a series of models of space-ships. There were sceptics in the US Treasury from the outset, but once Nasa got the toy-box out and Ronnie got to pick the models up, their cause was lost.

ca's bigger, better space stadon to cost \$8 billion and take ten years to complete. Agencies usually make "low-ball" estimates, we were reminded, but this must take some kind of record. Fifteen years later the figure has been revised to \$96 billion over 21 years, and they have only just launched the first component into space. We are still six REVIEW



Hoggart

years short of target completion so, according to my thumbnail calculation, the final cost could rise even further to about \$163,000 trillion, roughly. Even at today's estimate you could teach a lot of semi-literate Americans to spell for such sums. Or wipe out starvation in several developing countries.

The purpose of the project has also kept shifting with the political climate. During the Cold War it

and development facility with commercial, medical and doubtless military spin-offs. Then it was to be a launchpad for an enormously difficult and completely point-

less manned flight to Mars. Nowadays it's all about interna-tional peace and harmony, largely because the Americans discovered that the Russians were way ahead on recycling sweat and urine, and they needed to half-inch all that primitive but practical technology. The proposed station is now so big that it could eliminate the benefit of a low-gravity environment for medical experiments, and even

those are dubious it seems. It will be the most expensive object in human history. "This thing just stands in the way," said a cynical scientist, bitter at the diversion of revenue from genuinely useful research. But nobody. just nobody, will have a bigger toy.

Wheeler Dealers (BBC2)

Wheeler Dealers

right merchant banker. The teams did a bit better this week, mainly by selling pants. My nephew and his friends used to use the word "pants" as a term of deri-

bump. This quirky little programme has pitted two teams of

salespersons against each other on

a series of money-making challeng-

es. The publicity describes them as

would be "Arfur Daleys", after the

dodgy entrepreneur in Minder. To

emphasise this point the teams

were given Reliam three-wheelers.

just like Del Boy Trotter in Only

ast week they had to organ-

ise a night at a club. Simon,

a would be City whiz-kid

with a public school-effect voice,

who kept banging on about the need to be ruthless and amoral in

business and ignoring all advice

because it wasn't ruthless enough, made about 12p. He looked like a

Fools And Horses. Pardon?

My space station is bigger than yours stuff on market stalls. Well, pants went down really well at Walthamslow and Kempion Park, perhaps because they were "genuine" Calvin Kleins at a fiver for a pack of three. The series at least taught us that successful hustling is hard work. Otherwise, I'm sorry to say. it was rather "pants".

So, sadly are British heavyveight boxers, when challenging for the world oile. Lee Evans — Kings of the Riog (Channel 4) was a highly entertaining Cook's tour of these "game", "plucky". "spunky", bulldog-spirited chaps gening knocked flat by Americans, or remaining standing with their faces drenched in ketchup. Only Joe Bugner avoided these fates bravely dancing backwards for 15 rounds. Lennox Lewis has a North American accent, so on Saturday who knows? But it's not the win ning that counts, is it? It's how you wear those pants!

BBC1

6.00em Business Breakfast (96386) 7.00 Breakfast News (T) (32015) 9,00 Kilroy (T) (2651831) 9.45 Wipeout (5393396) 10.10 The Vanessa Show (T) (7540270)

10.55 News; Weather (T) (3100657) 11.00 Change That (3110034) 11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (3180893) 11.55 News; Weather (T) (7068831) 12.00 Call My Bluff (82134)

12.55 The Weather Show (1) (53785589) 1.00 One O'Clock News (1) (35102) 1.30 Regional News; Weather (59607164) 1.40 Neighbours The truth ebout Bianca emerges (T) (35747522) 2.05 Ironalde A party host is the victim of a

12.30pm Top Tip Challenge (r) (4641589)

murder ettempt. Starting Reymond Burr and Don Gallowsy (*) (5968367) 2.55 Through the Keyhote (*) (T) (3213742) 3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (6504164) 3.45 Spider (5168763) 3.50 Smart on the Road (9880676) 4.05 Red Nose Day 1999 (4199305)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (139270) 6.00 Stx O'Clock News; Weather (T) (947) 6.30 Regional News Magazine (299) 7.00 Comic Reflet The fun starts here as Lenny Henry and Denise Van Outen kick off a mammoth seven hours of fundraising (T) (709725)



7.45 Johnny and Zoe Johnny Vaughan and Zoe Ball introduce Griff Fitys Jones' record-breaking gunge challenge and a unique episode of Dactor Who starring Rowan Atkinson (T) (658893)

8.30 French and Saunders Dawn and Jennifer take over the reins as Boyzone perform the Cornic Relief single When the Going Gets Tough, and Peter Snow announces the lotal so far (T) (7251) 9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News;

Weather (T) (5015) 9.30 French and Saunders Ride Again A special episode of Hetty Wainthroop Investigates featuring Victoria Wood and the cast of Coronation Street (T) (25164) 10.00 Jack, Jonathan and Julian Messrs Dea, Floes and Clary continue the comic

mayhem (T) (961251) 10.45 Davina Live with Lenny With guests Reeves and Mortimer and Graham Norton (T) (845909) 11.30 TH Comic Relief With Chris Evans,

Kathy Burke and Gazza (1) (61725) 12.30am Blast from the Past with Ben Elton A look at some of the highlights of previous Comic Reliefs (T) (65042) 1.00 Carry On Loving (1970) Saucy cornecty

by Gerald Thomas (T) (8753955) 2.25 Weather (9776503) 2.30 BBC News 24 (8827619)

about an unconventional marriage agency run by seedy Sid James, aided and abetted by Hattle Jacques. Directed

BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakdast Show:
Pingu (7579812) 7.05 Telehubbies
(2833152) 7.30 Shorks (8431725) 7.50
Short Change (3549096) 8.18 Rewind
(3980367) 8.20 Taz-Mania (5137386)
8.40 Polka Dol Shorts (1185034) 8.50
Pingu (1181218) 9.00 Starytime
(7703034) 9.10 See You, See Me
(4435909) 9.30 Numbertime (8824015)
9.45 Come Outside (8812270) 10.00
Telekubbies (96725) 10.30 Mecamaths Teletubbies (96725) 10.30 Megamaths (1673454) 10.50 Look & Read (1693218) 11.10 Landmarks (3386928) 11.30 English File (4522) 12.00 Scene (82115)

12.30pm Working Lunch (38270) 1.00 Johnson and Friends (68004164) 1.10 War Wattes The British attack on Normandy (r) (T) (41835580) 1.40 Hart-Davis on History (35768015) 2.10 Awash with Colour (56528184) 2.40 News; Weather (T) (3372454) 2.45 Match of Their Day (T) (4759928)

3.25 News; Weather (T) (4892990) 3.30 The Village (r) (9549812) 3.55 Kaye Advice show (9557831) 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (6243676)

4.55 Esther (T) (5228657) 5.30 Today's the Day (1) (676) 6.00 The Simpsons (r) (T) (275034)
 6.25 Robot Wars: Grudge Match Special Craig Charles presents (T) (250725)
 6.55 Top of the Pops Gail Poner introduces

Boyzone; Cher; Vengaboys; Skunk Anansie; Stereophonics; Whitney Houston; and Blur (1) (342454) 7.30 Country House The Tavistocks' plan for a new golf course on the estata causes tension with the villagers (1) (725)

6.00 CHOICE Trust Me, I'm a Doctor Or Phi Hammond takes a closer look at the bowel (T) (6386) 8.30 Gardeners' World Stephen Lacey meets the Hollywood garden designer Jay Griffiths (1) (5893)

9.00 Atam Partridge Livel As BBC1 breaks for the news, the hapless broadcaster takes over (T) (3657) 9.28 Welcome to Las Vegas (T) (852251)-9.30 Timewatch investigation had no Roman.

campaign in Dacia (r) (T) (846218) 10.20 Several Careful Owners Messerschmitt bubble car (r) (911 10.30 Newsnight (T) (848095) 11.15 Births, Marriages and Deaths Terry



Jeanna Morseu stars in François

Truffaut's romantic drama following the lives of an Austrian and a Frenchman who both fall for the same oin. Jeanne eau stars (597232)

1.50 Later with Joola Holland includes music by Simply Red and Smashing Pumpkins (r) (2111819) 2.55 Weather (5418435)

3.00 BBC Learning Zone: GCSE Bresize Revision: Spanish (16684) 5.00 Close

HTV

5.30am ITV Morning News (16638) 5.00 GMTV (5822589) 9.25 Trisha (1) (8054218) 10.30 This Morning (T) (44669812) 12.15pm HTV News (T) (4157454)

12.30 ITV Lunchtime News (1) (4636657) 12.54 HTV Crimestoppers (53771386) 12.55 Getaways (r) (T) (9063367) 1.30 Home and Away Geraldine steals the show (T) (35776034)

1.55 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (9585198) 2.40 Wheel of Fortune (T) (7813706) 3.10 MV News Headlines (T) (4891251) 3.15 HTV News (T) (4890522)

3.20 CTTV: Mopatop's Shop (4811015) 3.30 Timbuctoo (5165676) 3.35 Animal Stories (9870299) 3.45 Giggly Bitz! (9883783) 4.00 Pump It Up (6342947) 4.35 Comin' Alcha (3106763)

5.00 Home and Away Geraldine steels the show (r) (T) (4928) 5.30 Sportsweek Sport highlights (102) 5.58 HTV Weather (980454)

6.00 HTV News (T) (265) 6.30 MV Evening News; Weather (1) (367) 7.00 Bruce Forsyth's Play Your Cards Right Game show (8/16) (T) (4164)



7.30 Coronation: Street Leanne gels proof that she's pregnant (T) (251)

Final actition of the home improvement series, with Carol and her team making DIY dreams come true for neighbours in Newbury, converting a loft and installing a self-contained flat (10/10) (T) (3812) 8.30 You've Been Framedi Compilation of video howiers (r) (T) (2947)

9.00 Who Wants To Be a Millionaire? Ultimate big-prize game show (T) (1947) 10.00 Infidelity The attermath of mich altairs. Last in series (3/3) (T) (4034) 11.00 ITV Nightly News; Weather (T) (882560)

11.20 HTV News and Weather (T) (751251) 11.30 Wonderful You New drama series starring Greg Wise and Richard Lumsden (1/7) (r) (T) (56893) 12.30am ITV at the Reading Festival Music

including performances by Symposium and the Bluetones (r) (92348) 1.30 Leahy in Concert The Cetic band perform (r) (2951955) 2.05 Club@vision Dance scene (2047868)

2.50 The Haunted Fishtank The ineverent TV review with Ed Half (r) (8768023) 3.20 Short Story Cinema A ballered house by enrolling in evening classes, but her first lesson soon turns into a nightmare.

3.50 Trisha Shown earlier (r) (T) (9242752) 4.50 ITV Nightscreen Behind the scenes of ITV programmes (43067329) 5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (86684)

Marianoela Pino stars (12215226)

As HTV West except 12.20pm-12.30 Central News; V. eather (1) (7395522) 12.55 Home and Away (1) (4644576) 1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (1) (426270) 2.10-2.40 Wish You Were Here? (7) (56555218) 3.15-3.20 Central News (T) (489652) 5.30 Surprise Gardeners (7-16) (702) 6.00-6.30 Central News at Sb; Westher (T) (255) 11.20-11.30 Central News; Weather (1) (751251) 11.30 Late Tackle (9/11) (541547) 12.35am FILM: The Lookalike (1) [387077] 2.15 Ctub@vision (2036752) 3.00 Box Office America (r) (12205110) 3.25 The Haunted Fishtank (r) (12215597) 3.55 Central Jobfinder '99 (T) (5577313) 5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (3442706)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except. 12.15pm-12.27 Westcountry News; Westher (T) (4157454) 12.27-12.30 Small Talk, Big Talk (7303541) 12.55-1.25 Westcountry Lunchtime Live (T) 12.55-1.25 Westcountry Limchitme Live (1) (464676) 1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (4203270) 2.10-2.40 Home and Away (T) (56555218) 3.15-3.20 Westcountry News; Weather (T) (4890522) 4.58-5.00 Birthday People (7906473) 5.30 Westcountry Live; Weather (T) (265) 11.20-11.30 Westcountry Live; Weather (T) (265) 11.20-11.30 Westcountry News; Weather (T) (751251) 11.30-1.30 FiLM: Stir Crazy (30218)

MAKAMEM

As HTV West except: 12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News; Weather (4157454) 12.55-1.30 Shortlend Street (9063367) 5.30 Streetwise (102) 6.00-6.30 Meridian Tonight (T) (265) 7.29-7.30 Meridian Weather (801893) 11.20-11.30 Meridian News; Weather (T) (751251) 5.00am-5.30 Freescreen (T) (86684)

ANTER

As HTV West except: 12.19pm Anglia Air Watch [7314657] 12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather (7396522) 12.55-1.30 Shortland Street (9063367) 5.30-6.00 Off the Beaten Track (7/10) (1) (102) 6.00-6.30 Anglia News (1) (265) 11,19 Anglia Air Watch (308218) 11,20-11,30 Anglia News and Weather (1) (751251)

Starts: 5.55am Sesame Street (r) (20298034) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (67980893) 9.00 Ysgolion: Off Limits (99277386) 9.25 Schools at Work (29818218) 9.30 Eureka (74178589) 9.45 Stop, Look, Listen (74156744) 10.00 The Complete Cosmos (14113015) 10.10 TVM (91905980) 10.25 laith ar Daith (91924015) 10.45 Enter the Maths Zone (96214299) 11.00 The Technology Programme (15077560) 11.15 Pa Newydd? (15067183) 11.20 Programme (15077560) 11.15 Pa Newydd? (15067183) 11.30 Powerhouse (f) (68332473) 12.00 Home Improvement (f) (97111541) 12.30pm Sesame Street (f) (26948386) 1.00 Planed Plant (f) (67983980) 1.30 Travelog Treks (f) (54863251) 1.40 Fit.Mt Angels One Five (1) (79755473) 3.30 Collectors' Lot (1) (67215164) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (1) (87235299) 4.30 Distres (1) (67224183) 5.00 Planed Plant (90216909) 5.30 Countdoo (f) (93664096) 8.10 Heno (f) (86054299) 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (f) (90229473) 7.30 Newyddion (f) (67225812) 8.00 Cefn Gwlad (f) (90205893) 8.30 Y Clwb Rygbi (T) (90224928) 9.00 Pawb a'i Fam (37476034) 10.00 Brookside (T) (72781386) 10.35 Frasier (T) (35886589) 11.05 So Graham Norton (83873473) 11.45 TFI Friday (41146218) 12.45am Celebrity Destirmatch (T) (91302435) 1.35 The RuPaul Show (T) (39786459) 2.10 Late Toon: Planet Apathy (95553936) 2.15 The Mod Squad (90608226) 3.15 Vids (r) (51851666) 3.45 FILM: The Face of Fu Manchu (31779503)

CHANNEL 4

5.55am Sesame Street (4389386) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (25725) 9.00 Schools: Off Limits (8920819) 9.25 Schools at Work (8972928) 9.30 Eureka (8819183) 9.45 Stop. Look, Listen (8814638) 10.00 The Complete Cosmos (5135454) 10.10 TVM (9012928) 10.25

1798 and After (9024763) 10.45 Enter the Maths Zone (9354367) 11.00 The Technology Programme (3228096) 11.15 Stage One (3241947) 11.30 Powerhouse (T) (9218) 12.00 Sesame Street (T) (96164)

12.30pm Bewitched (r) (T) (38638) 1.00 Pet Rescue (T) (28812) 1.30 Australia Wild (r) (T) (3911676) 2.05 Edge of Eternity (1959) A sherifi links three unsolved murders to an argument over the ownership of a disused gold

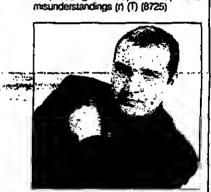
mine. Thriller, stamng Cornel Wilde. Directed by Don Siegel (T) (6956386) 3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (473) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (F) (980)

4.30 Countriown (T) (3105034) 4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (5213725) 5,30 Pet Rescue (T) (744) 6.00 TFI Friday Guests Andy Williams and James Nesbitt join Chris Evans and music comes from Echo and the

7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (354299) 7.55 The Outlaw Time is running out for Michael (T) (238183) 8.00 CHOICE Return to the Lost Gardens of Heligan A look ahead to the future of Heligan (1) (1454)

Bunnymen and Travis (T) (46657)

8.30 Brooksida Ryan loses his cool, while Mother's Day brings cold comfort for Niamh and Jackie (T) (7779) 9.00 Friends Phoebe's identical twin pays a visit, leading to multiple mishaps and



Frank Herper stars as the band's

9.30 CHOICE Boyz Unlimited Things go from bad to worse for the band as Nicky seeks solace in the Bible, while Gareth turns to Elton John (T) (41102) 10.00 Frasier The Seattle shrink is set up on a

blind date (T) (97893) 10.30 So Graham Norton (842812) 11.10 Access All Areas A lashion shool using disabled modals (T) (522676)

11.40 Celebrity Deathmatch Fanlasy fights 12.30am 4 Later; The RuPaul Show (8322503) 1.05 Late Toon: Planat Apathy (1271819)

1.10 The Mod Squad A dying girl goes on the run and the gang lear she may set off a meninoitis apidemic (3120503) 2.10 Vids Offbeat video review (r) (2161508) 2.40 The Face of Fu Manchu (1965) Christopher Lee debuts as the netarious villain, who tries to take over the London

underworld with an attack on an English village. Directed by Don Sharp (285752) 4.20 Prometheus and Domingo (3686868)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport (5630294) 7.00 WideWorld Part 16 Communic education in the workplace (r) (T) (8096947)

7.30 Milkshake! (2511473, 7.35 Wimzie's House (r) (4590102) 9.00 Hevakazoo (r) (2713725) 8.30 Dappledown Farm (r) (271295) 9.00 Nancy Lam (r) (T) 15517003) 9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (4372744)

9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (6887283) 10.20 Sunset Beach Gregory re/ears hrs secret to Annie (T) (3569386)

11.10 Leeza (r) (7016675) 12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (2716812) 12.30pm Family Affairs Pete has a nasty shock (r) (T): 5 News Update (1194034) 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful A lashon

cntic praises Sally's show (T) (8095218) 1.30 The Roseanne Show Entenainment and chat with the outspoken comedian; 5 News Update (1193305) 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (9072034) 2.30 Good Afternoon (1670522) 3.30 Bridesmaids (TVM 1989) Drama

charing the laughter and tears of four inends reunited at a wedding for the first time in 20 years. Shelley Hack and Sela Ward star. Lila Garrett directs (4812473) 5.10 Sunset Beach (r) (T) (8314251) 6.00 100 Per Cent Outz (T) (2316015)

6.30 Family Affairs Pete gets his comeuppance (T) (2307367) 7.00 5 News; Weather Round-up of the day's stories (T) (9043522)

7.30 Natural Passions The work of the wildlife vet David Cooper, who is responsible for transferring rhinos, loudul and lions to reserves throughout Africa (T): 5 News Update (2396251) 8.00 Cops in the Sky How helicopters enable

the aerial police to catch more than 100,000 criminals every year, 5 News Update (8407541)

9.00 Murder in New Hampshire (1991)
True-life crime drama about a high-school teacher who grows bored

with her maniage and manipulates a love-struck student into killing her husband. Staming Helen Hunt, Chad Allen, Ken Howard and Howard Hesseman. Directed by Joyce Chopra (T); 5 News Update (81171589) 10.50 Pottergelst: The Legacy Nick picks up a mysterious hitch-hiker (r) (T) (4910541)

11.45 Delta of Venus (1994) An crotic novels meets an American author who helps her fantasy tales come inue. Adult drama, starring Audi England. Directed by Zalman King (6020096)

1.40am Near Mrs. (1990) Premiere Fast-paced larce, with Judge Reinhold as a bigamous executive working on a

top-secret Pentagon project. Co-starring Casey Siemaszko. Directed by Baz Taylor (4216771) 3.20 Hey, I'm Alive (1975) Fact-based adventure charting two plane crash survivors' efforts to stay aive in the frozen Yukon wilderness. Otrected by Lawrence

Schiller (52018787) 4.35 Russell Grant's Postcards A visit to Wimbledon (r) (38711400) 4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (7007874)

5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (8608481)

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Falles (1998) SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59) Flubber (1997) SKY BOX OFFICE & (Transponder 58) SKY PREMIER

SKY MOVIEMAX

5.05am Race Against the Hervest (1987) (40026270) 7.00 Shaphard on the Rock (1994) (63183) 9.00 Gas (1976) (42328) 11.00 They Won't Believe Me (1947) (19612) 1.00pm Shephard on the Rock (1994) (46744) 3.00 Gas (1978) (27980) 8.00 Desmation Alloy (1977) (68305)

7.00 P: Raview (6164) 7.30 UK Top 10 7.00 P: Raview (8764) 7.30 UK Top 10 2831) 8.00 Permnes Feinless Sharon Sione (5812) 8.30 Movie Magic 14947) 8.00 187 (1997) (39305) 11.00 Marder at 1600 (1997) (746170) 12.50am Shadow Compinacy (1997) (833225) 2.35 The Silence of the Hams (1993) (8599874) 4.00 Midnight Crossing (1998) (274787) SKY CINEMA

4.00pm Buck Privates (1941) (7196015) 6.00 The Desperate Hours (1955) (2599164) 8.00 Honkystein Num (1962) (2501909) 18.00 The French Connection (1971) (7813270) 11.46 French Connection FILMFOUR 8.00pm Stori Attention Span (4121638) 6.00 Caberet (1972) (13300589) 10.10 Scanners (1980) (9000218) 12.00 Rabid (1978) (868228) 1.35am Pierrot le Fou (1968) (8059874) 3.30 French Klee

TNT 9.00pm WCN Nero (29/36522) 11.35 WCN Thunder (9337066) 1.15am The Feerless Vampire (1967s (1967) 9/1366869 3.15 The Kernete Killers (1967) (13821400) 5.00 Close

1995) (4547139) 6.00 Close

SKY SPORTS 1 6.30em Futures in Sport 7.00 Sports Centre 7.15 Wresting 8.15 You're On Sky Sports 9.00 Recing News 8.30 Aerobics 18.00 Big 9.00 Recing News 9.30 Aerobics 18.00 Big Pight Countdown 10.33 Spenish Footbel 12.00 Aerobics 12.30per Big Fight Countdown 1.00 Live Golf 5.00 Fight Mundial 5.30 What A Weekend £.00 Sports Centre 7.00 Boxing: Big Fight Countdown 7.30 European Tour Golf 10.00 Sports Centre 11.00 Biomig: Big Fight Countdown 11.30 Hold the Back Page 12.30 was Sports Centre 1.30 World Wreeting Federation. Raw 3.30 Sports Centre 4.30 Boxing: Big Fight Countdown 5.00 Mex Power

7.00am Aerobics Oz Style 7.30 Sports Centre 7.45 Racing News 8.15 What A Westerd 8.45 Sports Centre 9.00 Fish TV. Tight Lines 10.00 US Golf 12.00 The Rugby Calo 1.00pss fee Hockey 3.30 Boding. Big Fight Countdown 4.00 Trans World Sport 5.00 The Rugby Club 6.00 Moto-Plus 8.30

SKY SPORTS 2

Extreme Seing 7.30 Live International UISS Footbel 9.30 Boung Big Fight Countdown 19.00 US Gold 12.00 Cycling 12.30pm International UIS's Footbell 2.30 Sports Centre 3.30 US Golf 9.30 Extreme Soling SKY SPORTS 3

11.20em Futures in Sport 12.00 Trans World Sport 1.00pm Fishing: Tight Lines 2.00 Bobby Charloth's Footbeal Scrapbook 3.30 Survivor to the Fittest 4.00 Footbeal Langue Review 5.00 World Sport Sported 5.20 Festina 6.00 Cycling 6.30 Inside the Senior PGA Tour 7.00 Mass Power 8.00 Rugby Union 10.00 World Wrestling Federation Raw 12.00 Close EUROSPORT

T-30em Golf 8.30 SW-Aurophy 10.00 Live Blathon 11.30 Racing Line 12.00 Show-boerding 12.30pm Live Blathon 8.00 Terms 4.00 Nordic Combined Sking 5.00 Live Women's Seing 8.00 Live Terms 8.00 Live Women's Alphra Sking 8.45 Live Women's Alphra Sking 8.45 Live Women's Termis 18.00 Live Terms 11.30 Equationarm 12.30em Close UK GOLD

7.00mm Crossmack 7.20 Neighbours 7.55 7.00em Crossnack 7.30 Neighbours 7.55 EastEnders 8.30 The Bill 9.00 The 9.89 9.30 When the Boat Comes in 10.30 Fhoda 11.00 Delas 11.55 Neighbours 12.25pm EastEnders 1.60 Juliel Branc 2.00 Delas 2.55 The Bill 9.35 EastEnders 4.30 Phroca 5.00 All Creatures Great and Small 6.00 Dynasty 7.00 Ever Decreasing Croles 7.40 Deat's Army 8.20 The Billas Empire 8.00 The Tibil Base Line 9.40 Harry Enfeld and Chums 10.20 Rusy Was Mead Bill Codby and Fee Dressfor 11.00 Net Bill Bill Cottly and Fren Drescher 11.00 The Bill 11.30 The Bill 12.00 Doctor Who. The Chese 1.45pm Blake's Seven 3.00 Shopping with Screenshop GRANADA PLUS 6.00em Within These Wale 7.00 Holding the For 7.30 The Odd Coucle 8.00 Halletingth 8.30 The Many Wives of Patrok 8.00 Classic Coronetion Street 8.30 Emmerdels Farm 10.00 Upstairs, Downstairs 11.00 The Gertle Touch 12.00 Classic Coronetion Street 12.30pm Emmerdels Farm 1.00 The Many Wives of Petrok 1.30 Me and My Cirl 2.00 Upstairs, Downstairs 3.00 The Love Boar 4.00 The Professionals, 5.00 Hart to Her 6.00

plessioners 5.00 Hart to Hart 6.06 innertale Farm 6.30 Classic Coronation set 7.00 The Professionels 8.00 The



Michael Ironside sters as a ruthless telepathic assassin in David Cronenberg's classic sci-fi horror Scarmers (FilmFour, 10.10pm)

Senny Hit Show 8,00 The Sweeney 10,00 The Bran Corrley Show 10,30 Wheel-lappers and Shurilers' Social Club 11,00 Gramada Men and Motors **CARLTON SELECT**

5.00pm What's Cooking? 5.30 Gridlock 6.00 Landon Bridge 6.30 Our House 7.60 Boon 8.00 Blue Heelers 8.00 Love Huts 10.56 The Good Sex Guide 10.30 The Screen 11.00 Hill Street Burs 12.00 Grown DISNEY CHANNEL 6.00am Gurrani Bears 8.25 Classic Tooris 6.35 Tele Spin 7.00 Classic Tooris 7.10

6.35 Tele Spn 7.00 Classic Toons 7.10 Abddin 7.25 for Darmatians 8.00 Good Troop 8.25 Classic Toons 8.45 New Adventures of Spot 8.05 Annual Shaf 9.15 Podes Dragors 9.30 Bear in the Big Buc House 9.35 The Toothbrush Family 10.30 The Big Garage 10.45 PB and J Otter 11.00 Sesame Street 12.00 The Adventures of Spot 12.65pm Animal Shaf 9.15 Podest 5.00 The Adventures of Spot 12.65pm Animal Shaf 12.15 Podest

Dragons 12.30 Bear in the Big Blue House 12.55 The Toothbrush Family 1.00 Bee 529 1.10 Rosse and Jim 1.30 The Big Garage 1.45 PB and J Caler 2.00 New Adventures of Winne the Poch 2.30 Quack Pack 3.00 The Little Mermaid 3.30 An Arrack 4.00 101 Dalmations 0.30 Hercules The Datmetion's 0.30 Hightuises The 17 Shows 5.00 Recess 5.15 Papper Ann 5.30 Smart Guy 5.00 Teen Angel 2.30 Boy Meets World 7.00 FILME Brieful (TVM 1998) 2.30 Honey, I Shrunk the Kids: TV Show 9.15 Double Dittosaums 10.00 Home Improvement 10.30 The Wonder Years 11.00 Touched by an Angel 12.00 Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00ata Adventures of Dodo 6.05 Power Rangers Turbo 6.26 Power Rangers Turbo 6.25 Spiderman 7.20 Oggy and the Cookrosethes 7.30 Donkey Kong Country 6.00 Hero Turdes. The Next Musation 8.25 The Incredible Hus. 8.50 Iron Mars 3.15 Fartesate Four 9.40 A-Men 18.00 Ceoper 10.30 Oggy and the Cookrosethes 10.55 Eak/Stravegatza 11.05 Boobly's World 11.30 Life with Louis 11.35 Horne to Rent 12.05pra Denne and Grasher 12.30

DONLEY Kong Country 1.00 Mowel The New Adventures of Jungle Book 1.25 Ace Ventura 1.55 The Incredible Hull 2.20 Iron Man 2.45 Faritastic Four 3.10 V-Men 3.30 For Kds X-Press 3.35 Spedeman 4.00 Gocobumps 4.25 Hero Tuttles. The Next Musaion 4.50 Casper 5.00 Dennis and Grassier 9.30 Ace Ventura 6.00 Donley Kong Country 6.30 Edistrategara 6.55 Oggy and the Cockroaches 7.00 Close NICKELODEON 7.00 CalDog 7.30 Rugats, 8.00 The Wild Thomberrys 8.30 Antur 9.00 Chidden's BBC 18.00 Whole's Mouse 10.30 Page Searer Stones 11.00 The Mage: School Bus 11.30 PB Bear/Budge the Little Helicopter/Antrea Antics/Family Ness 18.00 Rugats 12.30pm Bue's Clues 1.00 Bananas in Pyjames 1.30 Little Bear Stones 2.00 Peddington Bear/Luze's Library/Portland Bat/Mr Men 2.30 Children's BBC 3.00 Children's BBC 2.30 Doug 4.00 three French and Jeny 4.30 Rugars 5.00

Three Friends and Jerry 4.30 Rugrars 5.00 Sister Scater 5.30 Kenan and Kel 8.00 Renford Rejects 2.30 Moester 7.00 Close BRAVO 6.00pm Martial Law 9.00 Extreme 6.00pm Natrial Law 9.00 Extreme Champonship Wresting 9.30 Cops 10.00 The Late Lounge 10.36 Eroic Confessions 11.00 FLM: The Happy Hooker Goes to Hollywood (1979) 1.00am Eroic Confessions 1.30 The Late Lounge 2.00 Martial Law 3.00 FLM: National Lampoon's Movie Madness (1981) 5.00 Edieme Champonship Wrestling 3.30 Cops 8.00 Proces 8.00 Proces

Cops 6.00 Close PARAMOUNT COMEDY 7.00pm Jenny 7.30 Grace Under Fre 8.00 Ellen 8.30 Spin Cdy 9.00 Drop the Deed Dorliey 9.30 Whose Line is 1 Anyway 10.00 RLM; Jehberwocky (1977) 12.00 Late Night with Devid Letterman 1.00pm Tay 1.30 Frontine 2.00 Dr Kaz 2.30 Tubs

THE SCHFI CHANNEL SATELLITE: Spor-MIDNIGHT ONLY 8.00 Sphings 8.00 Bentesiar Galacica.
18.00 Quantum Lesp 11.00 Dark Shedows.
11.30 The Ray Brackery Theatre 12.00 The Ray Brackery Theatre 12.00 The Unexpected 1.50 Tales of the Unexpected 2.00 Amazing Stories 2.30 Mysteries, Megic and Miracles 8.00 Battlester Gelactica 4.00 The trueschild Hulls 5.00 Sightings 8.00 The Fay Bradbury Theatre 6.30 New Alfred Hitchcock 7.00 Cusnium Losp 8.00 Amazing Stories 8.30 Highland or The Reven 2.30 The Hunger 18.00 FILM: Demon House (1996) 11.35 Schools 50ccis 12.00 FILM: Megazore 23 1.45am Sch-Foust Special 2.00 The Guyer 2.30 100 Years of Honor 3.00 Days 2.30 100 Years of Horror 3.00 Dari Shadows 3.30 Dark Shadows 4.00 Close HOME & LEISURE

6.00em Today's Gournel 8.30 Greham Kerr 7.00 Priorn Senote 7.30 The Patriled House 8.00 Wedding Story 8.30 A Baby Story 8.00 Simply Parting 8.30 The Creat Gardeng Pro 10.00 Global Gardens 10.30 Two's Country Cooking 11.00 The Decemen 11.25 The Home and Leisure House 11.30 Rex Huril Flething Advertures 12.00 Our House 00wn Under 12.30pm Antiquea Frail 1.00 Cut House 1.30 New Yankee Workshop 2.30 Home Agen with Bob Vite 3.00 The Old Mouse with Sleve and Norm 3.30 Chesite West Fishing and Norm 3.30 Charle West Fishing

DISCOVERY A.00pm Rex Hurti Fishing Adventures 4.30 A River Scrnowhare 5.00 Time Travellers 2.30 Terra X 8.00 Widthe SOS 6.30 Uniterned Africa 7.30 The Cuest 8.00 Outback Adventures 8.30 Uncharted Africa 9.00 Test Pilors 18.00 The Great Egyptans 11.00 Weapons of War 12.00 Process and Allende Analomy of a Coup 1.00am Tema X 1.30 Time Travellers 2.00 Close AN(MAL PLANET

12.00 The New Adventures of Black Beauty 12.00 Trie New Adventures of Black Beauty
2.30pm Hollywood Salan 1.30 Deadly
Australans 2.00 Wild Rescues 2.30
HumanyNature 3.30 Horry's Practice 4.00
Jack Hanne's Zoo Life 4.30 Animal Doctor
8.00 Per Rescue 5.30 Deadly Australians
8.00 The New Adventures of Black Beauty
8.30 Lasse 7.00 Rediscovery of the World
8.00 Animal Doctor 8.30 Animal X 9.00
Ocean Wilds 9.30 Emergency Vets 10.00
Loos. Finding Freedom 11.00 Vet School
11.30 Emergency Vets 12.00 Close

11.30 Emergency Vets 12.00 Close NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC 7.00pm The War of Wings and Tongues 7.30 Fire Bornbers 8.00 The Shark Files The Smale of the Shark 9.00 The Warling Garne 10.00 Monkeys of Harsuman 11.00 Koeles in the Backvard 12.00 Kyonamg's Bornbert 4.00pm Clash of Wings: True Airpower 5.00 Forensic Science 6.00 Camelot 7.00 Salem

CARLTON FOOD

9.00mm Food Hetwork Daily 9.30 Coxon's Kitchen College 10.00 The Cookshop 10.30 First Tasie 11.00 Worrall Thompson Cooks 11.30 A Sice of the Action 12.00 Cooks 11.30 A Sice of the Action 12.00 Food Network Daily 12.30pm French Lunch "1.00 Coxon's Kachen College 1.30 Gordon Farmeny's Passon for Flavour 8.00 Centr Sand the Heat 2.30 Food Network Daily 3.00 Food Factory 3.30 A Sice of the Action 4.00 New Chest on the Block 4.30 Patient Pasta with Aldo Zife 8.00 Close LIVING

LIVING

6.00em Triv and Crew 6.20 10 Plus 2 6.40
Greedysaurs and the Gang 8.45 Philbert his Prog 6.50 Polisa Doi Shoris 7.00
Practical Parenting 7.05 Professor Bubble 7.30 Callou 7.35 Bug Aler 7.55 Protesal Parenting 8.00 Barney and Friends 8.25
Bebeloo 2.30 Triy Tales 8.35 Triy and Crew 8.50 Practical Parenting 8.00 Specasi Babas 9.33 The Rossame Show 10.50 Maury Pouch 11.48 The Heat Is On 12.10pm Through the Keyhola 12.40 Rescue 911
1.10 Beyond Bellef Fact or Fiction 1.40 Maury Pouch 2.10 Specal Bables 3.00 Living Room 3.50 Michael Cole 4.40 Through the Keyhola 5.10 The Heat Is On 5.40 Ready, Steedy, Cook 8.15 The Jerry Springer Show 7.05 Rescue 911 7.35 Armel Rescue 6.00 L/Law 9.00 Filiats A Kidnepping in the Family (1895) 11.00 The Sex Files II 12.00 Close

ZEE TV

5.00am Mrs Madhum Doot \$.30 Guidesta 8.00 Sony Men Lony 6.30 Mest Must Show 7.00 Fabh, Musim 7.30 News 6.00 Music Mag 8.30 Tara 2 0.00 Achibes 10.00 Yeh Zindagi 11.00 Zaibe Ka Safar 11.30 Parampara 12.00 FUM: Windl Movies Anidari Daito 3.00pm Bangla TV, Nofrettier Rai 3.30 It's My Choke 4.00 Addar Brotal 4.30 Zee Zone 5.30 Amanet 6.00 Artist of the Fortnight 6.30 Zee TV: Showcase 7.00 Chesme Beddoor 7.30 Entertainment Express 8.00 News 6.30 Aashrward 9.30 FUM: Hindi Movies Alay 12.00 News 12.00 News 1.20 News 1











In praise of the maligned Eighties



FRIDAY MARCH 12 1999

Premier League duo forced to resign

By MATT DICKINSON

THE leaders of English foot-ball continued to fall like ninepins last night as Peter Leaver. the chief executive of the Premier League, and Sir John Quinton, its chairman, were forced to resign. Coming so soon after the recent scandal at the Football Association, the hierarchy of the national game now consists entirely of care-

Echoes of the FA's cash-forvotes crisis resounded through the Premier League controversy as Leaver and Quinton, like former FA counterparts Gra-ham Kelly and Keith Wiseman before them, were found guilty of exceeding their powers. As at Lancaster Gate less than three months ago, there were also undercurrents of political score-settling. Leaver had been increasingly unpopular among the FA Carling Premiership chairmen be-cause of his austere style. It

given the chance to plead for his position, he is believed to have stood his ground.

Leaver and Quinton were deemed to have abused their positions by giving lucrative contracts to Sam Chisholm and David Chance, both former BSkyB executives, without the full consultation of the chairmen of the 20 Premier League clubs.

Several reacted furiously when they heard the huge sums that Chisholm and Chance could make, including up to £13 million between them if they successfully renegotiated television rights when they expire in 2001.

A four-man sub-committee comprising David Dein, vice-chairman of Arsenal, Rick Parry, chief executive of Liverpool. Alan Sugar, chairman of Tottenham Hotspur, and Michael Jepson, a Coventry City director, was set up to try to renegotiate the contracts



with Chisholm and Chance. But by yesterday they had succeeded only in a meeting last week with Chance, who is understood to have insisted that his contract was legally

Leaver's failure to bring all the parties to the negotiating table had led to a hardening of



ing and the outcome appeared inevitable long before the meet-ing came to a conclusion after 31/2 hours. "Many of the chairmen seemed to have already made their minds up," a source said. "It was obvious from the start that the mood had turned against Leaver."

replacement in the short term. The Premier League will A management committee now be in competition with the



FA to find a chief executive.

Mike Foster, the secretary, will temporarily fill the

breach, just as David Davies

is doing at Lancaster Gate.

Dave Richards, the chairman of Sheffield Wednesday, has

been appointed as Quinton's

through the crisis, comprising Dein, Parry. Doug Ellis, chairman of Aston Villa, Ken Bates, chairman of Cheisea, and Bryan Richardson, the Coventry chairman, was also approved. Parry will be put in charge of the ongoing legal case brought by the Office of Fair Trading, which is attempting to end the collective bargaining of clubs for television contracts. Leaver had already given his evidence and the League is confident that its case will not be damaged.

The most pressing job, though, will be the resolution of the Chishoim and Chance contracts, with the chairmen anxious that the negotiation of television rights should be brought back into their full remit and that the contracts offered by Leaver should be amended.

He promised Chisholm and Chance an initial fee of £600,000 with equal sums paid at the beginning of their second and third years, but it is the huge bonuses on offer that have provoked anger. A 5 per cent commission would be worth £13 million if, as the League hopes, the present BSkyB deal, worth £743 miltion over five years, is in-creased to more than £l bil-

Chisholm and Chance were also promised 5 per cent of

pay-per-view revenue as well as 10 per cent of the equity in a Premier League television company, which could provide its own match coverage.

Manchester United and Newcastle United were the first clubs to raise objections and by yesterday Leaver, a Tottenham fan and commercial barrister, and Quinton, the former chairman of Bardays Bank, had lost all support. Neither would speak last night as their lawyers

negotiated settlements. The English game now finds itself with an acting FA chairman (Geoff Thompson). FA chief executive (Davies) and coach (Kevin Keegan), and now Richards and Foster at the Premier League. In Scorland, Jim Farry, chief executive of the SFA, was ousted from his post this week after an inquiry into the handling of the registration of Jorge Cadete, the Celtic striker.

Stone joins Villa, page 46

Henman puts case to be best of British

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN INDIAN WELLS, CALIFORNIA

locals termed it, is over and Tim Henman has emerged the winner. He advanced to the quarter-finals of the Champions' Cup with a 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 victory over Greg Rusedski.
As a match, it was like the

curate's egg, good in parts. At times, both played well, very well in some cases, but seldom at the same moment. Such is the way of things between two men who know each other's

For all their protestations of rivalry, Rusedski and Henman have always got one eye

THE Battle of Britain, as the likes to be beaten at the best of times, but neither can stand to have the other get even the hint of an edge on him. For example, Henman signs a deal with Mercedes and drives a nifty little sports car around town: Rusedski joins up with Jaguar and swans around in a gleaming new motor. All in all, such rivalry does not make for the best of tennis matches. Yesterday, there was definitely

a note of tension in the air on court, at least. As the match began, the but in these parts, two Limeys playing tennis does not count for much. "Henman's the Eng-

TIMESTIWO

lish one, I think," a bemused and elderly voice in the crowd said. He was also the one in charge as the hostilities got

under way. Rusedski was looking edgy and could not find his range on his first service, having to go through the first hour without an ace to his name. An exchange of breaks at the start did little to settle the nerves, but while Henman also took his time to get his service working, he was looking sharper on

was its usual, erratic self. When it is working, it is a match-winner; when it is stuttering, it is a liability and in the first set there was just enough of the former to make the difference. There were never going to be more than a few points in it either way and Henman seemed to be collecting the ones that

However, the second set was a different story. Facing defeat, Rusedski began to relax and go for his shots and, as he did so, the wind picked up. Suddenly, the conditions were totally different and

counted.

Henman could not cope. Rusedski started to head for the net with more frequency and more purpose and, left to fend from the back court. Henman made a couple of duff judgments. As the set whistled by, Rusedski broke the Henman service three times, so was none too concerned that his own was snatched just the once. Standing toe-to-toe in the

third set. Rusedski came off worse, literally. Henman had got the hang of the gusting



Henman cannot resist a glance towards Rusedski, his rival, during their tussle in Indian Wells yesterday. Photograph: Gary M. Prior/Allsport

wind, breaking Rusedski to move into a 4-3 lead, when Ruseski had to call for the trainer. A huge blister on his big toe needed treatment not that it seemed to slow him down much once the medics had done their stuff. But by then it was all too late and Henman was heading for the quarter-finals.

Indeed, for him, the day was almost too good to be true. At first Henman and Rusedski's draw had looked to be a ticket to nowhere in particular. The figure of Pete Sampras loomed large in the quarter-finals until, that was, he ran into Felix Mantilla. The Spaniard, who really ought not to be allowed near a barber's shop without a responsible adult to hold his hand - the hair colour was normal but the goatee beard was a little alarming sat back and watched as Sampras stumbled and finally fell 7-6, 3-6, 6-3.

The world NoI looked decidedly ring-rusty after his long winter break and, with only five matches under his belt this year, he was struggling from the start - and he knew

"I couldn't get my game going and I struggled with everything," he said. "I don't like losing and playing the way I did tonight, but you can't just get your form back, like the way I was playing in Hanover last year. It's going to take some time, but I'm a pretty impatient guy and I like to win everything I play."
One thing he is still determined not to play is the United States' Davis Cup-tie in April. Whatever the rumours and whatever Rusedski has said, Birmingham does not fit into

the great man's schedule. "Maybe 111 get a message from God and He 'll say 'play Davis Cup', but I haven't spoken to Him lately." Sampras said, revealing a rare shaft of wit. However, with only two of the seven Americans left in the draw - Todd Martin and Chris Woodruff and three possible team members gone — Jan-Michael Gambill, Jim Courier and Justin Gimelstob — Tom Gul-likson, the United States captain, is having as hard a job getting a full team together as his opposite number, David

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WBC attacks choice of referee

ACROSS 4 Horseshoe river bend (5) [Fail, lie, inelegantly (6) 7 Prearranged piece of trickery 8 Thomas -, Death in Venice author (4) 5 Accurate shot (5-3) 10 London insurance market (6) 6 Soft neigh (6)

No 1663

I Stubbornly unshakable (8) [3 Opportune (6) t4 C15 Florence ruling family 12 Meek obedience (8) (6) 15 Friedrich —, Marx colleague (6) 14 Confusion, mess (6) 15 Right of admission (in socie 18 Abandoned and decayed (8) ty) (6)

t9 Protuberance (4) 20 lts course never did run smooth (MND) (4.4) 17 Supple: part of gun carriage

SOLUTION TO NO 1662 ACROSS: 1 Cube 3 Haricot 8 Crucial 9 Taxes to Lupin 11 Close in 13 Test match 17 Caribou 19 Route 20 Rabbi 22 Invited 23 Hexagon 24 Eden DOWN: 1 Cackle 2 Blue Peter 3 Holy Communion 4 Ratio 5 Cox 6 Tisane 7 Fiends 12 Exhausted 14 Throve 15 Scorch 16 Redden 18 Being 21 Box

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(WBC) is unhappy with the appointment, by the New York State Athletic Commission, of Arthur Mercante Jr as the referee in the bout en Lennox Lewis and Evander Holyfield for the world heavyweight champion-ship here tomorrow.

THE World Boxing Council

The WBC had wanted Mercante's father, Arthur Mer-cante Sr. 78, who had refereed the first contest between Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier at the Garden and has been in charge of 103 championship bouts in six decades of

officiating in the ring. Mercante Jr was the referee for the contest between Lewis and Ray Mercer at the Garden in 1996, but Jose Sulaiman, the WBC president, said: "We are very disappointed. We had told the New York commission that we wanted Arthur Mercante Sr but they ignored our wishes and

appointed his son.
"They did not even tell us who they had appointed. The FROM SRIKUMAR SEN IN NEW YORK

his father, naturally, or as good. If it is age that is worrying the commission, I can only say that he had a very good fight only recently. This event at the Garden is a very important one and requires someone who has most experience of big fights."

The New York commission was not available for comment, but it is believed that Mercante Sr's age went against him. It is thought that

the commission feared that if anything went wrong in the contest, they could be blamed for making the incorrect appointment of referee. Those who have seen Mer-

cante Sr say that, even if he is two years off 80, he looks no more than a man in his late 60s. This is because of his position as deputy commissioner of the parks and recreation department at Hampstead, New York, where he is in charge of all fitness programmes.

Mercante Sr. who started out as the boxing co-ordinator of Gene Tunney in the US Navy in 1942, is still punching away, literally. He does sever al rounds on the heavy bag and speed-ball daily. He said: "It was a great

honour when they put up my name because I hope to he refereeing in the year 2000. But my son is just as good. They claim that he is the best young referee in the world. "I was very critical of him when he told me he wanted

me to become a referee. I told him he could not become a referee because he was an amateur referee first for three to five years. So he did the Golden Gloves and the Empire State Games and, after three years, he was ready.

Mercante Jr has not refereed any contests involving Holyfield, but, because of the complaints by Mike Tyson about use of the head by Holyfield, the referee will be watching out for infringements by the International Boxing

Ring of truth. Lynne Truss

Federation and World Boxing Association champion.

According to his father, Mercante Jr, who is 5ft llin and heavily built, will tolerate no nonsense. "My one advice to him was to be in complete control at all times. And not to he aware of the camera or smile or wave at it as some refs do." Mercante Sr said.